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American Spirit

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

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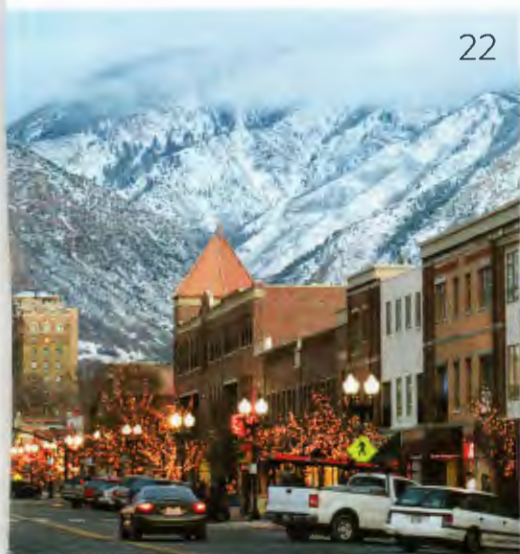
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By Megan Hamby



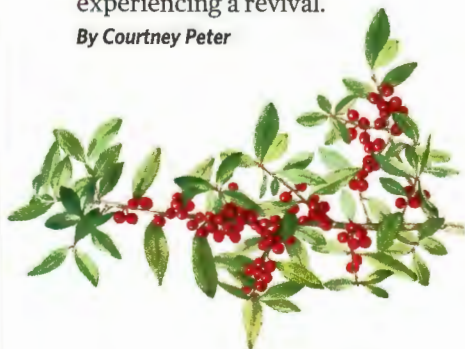
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About the cover:

John Sartain created this engraving of Abigail Adams in 1854.

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From the President General

WARNING: You hold in your hands a history lover's dream issue! You may not be able to put it down until you have read it from cover to cover. I hope that you will settle in and savor it.

Inside these pages you will find a refresher on both Shays' Rebellion and the XYZ Affair. Do you remember those from your history classes? You'll also read about the home of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; visit America's mountain towns; and journey to Fargo, N.D., known as the "Gateway to the West."



And have you ever tried yaupon holly tea? You will want to once you read about its fascinating history!

Perhaps our most fascinating feature focuses on the women who remained at home to complete the important work of raising families and running businesses and farms during the American Revolution. Imagine how difficult their lives must have been, especially in a time of war! This story topic was chosen by the members of the Spirit of America Chapter

of South Jordan, Utah—the winners of our annual Spread the American Spirit Contest. (These Daughters amassed a 165% subscription ratio, the highest in the nation. Why not challenge your chapter to best that number this year? Just one more reason to encourage subscriptions to our award-winning magazine!)

It is self-evident that the roles women played throughout our nation's history were critically important to our development as a people. Yet these stories are too often left out of traditional historical accounts. Our National Society is committed to doing a better job of uncovering the contributions of women and underrepresented groups to capture a fuller appreciation for all those who combined to mold our American identity through the great melting pot—something else we learned about in school. Doing so does not diminish the contributions of recognized men and women—it only adds to our appreciation for the beautiful tapestry of our national past.

I am also most certain that you will appreciate this edition's Whatnot feature on the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—a truly sacred place. Every American should experience the dramatic and solemn ceremonies observed at Arlington National Cemetery to honor our nation's war dead through this memorial. It is impossible not to be moved as a citizen. I am proud that our National Society has a special connection, having placed a wreath for 100 consecutive years on this cornerstone of our national consciousness. We will never forget our men and women in uniform.

As our last edition of 2021, our November/December issue brings to a close another great year of well-researched and riveting content, beautiful illustrations and compelling storytelling. I am grateful to the members of our DAR Magazine Team for the dedication they bring to our publications, which are consistently recognized with nationwide awards. I'm also immensely grateful to you, our faithful readers and subscribers, for your loyalty and your frequent expressions of appreciation. But be warned yet again: We have plenty of great things in store for you in 2022!

Denise Doring VanBuren

Above and Beyond

Florida Daughter earns top lifesaving award from the U.S. Coast Guard for heroic rescue

By Lena Anthony

Victoria Vanderhaden was 13 when her answer to “What do you want to be when you grow up?” came into clear focus.

She was on a boat and decided right then that she wanted to join the U.S. Coast Guard, which is the principal federal agency responsible for maritime safety, security and environmental stewardship in U.S. ports and inland waterways.

She knew she would be in good company. Her father is Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Jason Vanderhaden, who in 2018 became the branch's highest-ranking enlisted member. Her mother, Amy, spent four years in the Coast Guard in the 1980s.

“She was paving the way for me and my career long before I knew,” said the member of Sallie Harrison DAR Chapter, Sanford, Fla.

A decade later, she is now Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Vanderhaden, driving boats not for fun but for a living.

She is certified to drive small (29-foot) and medium-sized (45-foot) response boats and perform search and rescue missions. She is also a certified maritime law enforcement officer and a boarding team member in charge of a shop of 16 junior members. She volunteers for the leadership development committee at Coast Guard Sector Mobile, Ala., and holds the titles of assistant safety manager, hazmat response, and corrosion prevention advocate for all boats and facilities from eastern Mississippi to central Florida.

“I grew up in a Coast Guard family, but I was always an outsider looking in,” she said. “I thought it was friends going out on a boat and doing a job that doesn't feel

like a job. It's so much more than that. Now I realize it takes everyone coming together to make everything go 'round. Some of the best people I have ever met I have met in the Coast Guard.”

After enlisting at the age of 17, BM2 Vanderhaden wasted no time climbing the ranks. At 21, she earned the certification of coxswain (captain, in layman's terms). That is typically a yearlong process, but she finished it in nine months.

“You can't get a certification like that without putting in the effort,” she said. “A lot of people are intimidated by it because



“You take this job because you want to help. It's in our nature, no matter what kind of first responder you are.”

it's such an intense training. It's a brotherhood, and there are so few women who earn it. It's definitely one of my proudest achievements.”

Notice she said “one of” her proudest achievements. The other was receiving the Coast Guard Silver Lifesaving Medal



earlier this year in recognition of a heroic rescue that she made off-duty nearly three years ago. She is only the second woman to receive this honor.

While assigned to Coast Guard Station Eatons Neck, N.Y., she was walking along a boardwalk when she saw two distressed swimmers caught in a rip tide. She tore off her sweatshirt while instructing a bystander to call 911. Before help could arrive, she had swum out and towed both men to safety.

“You take this job because you want to help,” she said. “It's in our nature, no matter what kind of first responder you are. I was in the right place at the right time, and I know that any of my fellow Coast Guard members would have done the exact same thing.”

At press time, BM2 Vanderhaden's assignment in Alabama was ending, and she was awaiting transfer. She and her husband, a Coast Guard helicopter rescue swimmer, are hoping for somewhere with different weather.

“Growing up in the Coast Guard, I am so used to it at this point,” she said. “In fact, I start to get antsy after a couple of years and am always ready for something different with the next tour.”

Whether it's sunny and hot or cloudy and cool, if there's beach access, any assignment can feel like home, she said. ☉

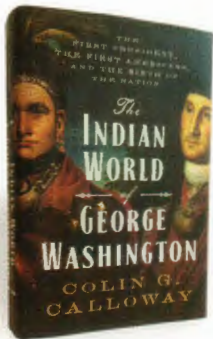
PHOTOS COURTESY OF VICTORIA VANDERHADEN



SHARLAY POWDER HORN

Revolutionary War veteran James Sharlay was born in 1753 in Rockingham County, N.H. In April 1775, he enlisted in the Revolutionary War, and on May 1, 1775, he joined Captain Samuel Sprague's 9th Company of Colonel Samuel Gerrish's Regiment. Sharlay fought in the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill and Chelsea Creek (also known as Noddle's Island). According to his widow's pension application, he was also present at the siege of New York, as well as the Battles of White Plains and Bennington. He eventually enlisted with the Massachusetts troops and served until the end of the war. His powder horn was finished on October 3, 1776. The design and decorations feature a church with a steeple, birds, a fish and a sword, as well as scroll and leaf motifs. Other designs are indiscernible because of wear, which indicates that Sharlay likely used his horn frequently during the War of Independence. Decorations on the horn are accompanied by this poem: "Powder goodwill I have/It is not free for every knave/my master only he sopply/let begging fellows/go & buy." Sharlay participated in the war from the beginning to the end and traveled from New Hampshire to Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York. After the war, he returned to New Hampshire, where he married Susan McDuffee in 1789 and had six children. He died in November 1810. His widow was allowed a pension in 1848 after using the family Bible to prove the date of her marriage to Sharlay.—*Carrie Blough* 🍷

Colonial Culture Clash



The Indian World of George Washington: The First President, the First Americans, and the Birth of the Nation (Oxford University Press, 2018) by Colin G. Calloway richly deserved winning Mount

Vernon's prestigious 2019 George Washington Prize and being a finalist for the 2018 National Book Award for Nonfiction. It is a meticulously researched, thoroughly documented, multi-layered account of a critical era for American Indians and Colonists.

Calloway, the John Kimball, Jr. 1943 Professor of History and Professor of Native American Studies at Dartmouth College, vividly presents the era from the point of view of the nations and tribes with whom whites interacted. He demonstrates that relations with American Indians powerfully influenced Colonial political decisions ranging from New England town meetings to the English Crown and Parliament.

The author states this is not a biography of Washington *per se*, but the book uses a biographical framework to show how his interactions with American Indians shaped his life and thinking. Like many others, he was inextricably linked to them, which informed his military and political perspectives.

Calloway focuses on Washington's lifelong obsession with land. Born into the Virginia planter class, he learned early that land defined social status and wealth. He became a surveyor, and was preoccupied with land throughout his life, even during war.

The portrait of Washington as a land speculator is not always complimentary. He was not above sharp dealing and deception to achieve his aims. As a military leader, he could be ruthless in driving native peoples from their homes. The Iroquois dubbed him Conotocarious—Town Destroyer—and he did not object to the name, Calloway notes.

As president, Washington received tribal delegations and feted them at what we would call state dinners. This was not unusual: Tribal delegations often visited Colonial and later state capitals on official business. Washington and other leaders learned the importance of treating them as representatives of sovereign peoples—which they were.

At the same time, Washington's vision for the republic depended on acquiring ever more American Indian land. The Revolution was also a war for the North American continent, which continued after Colonists won independence from England. For example, much of the federal budget during Washington's presidency was spent on wars with American Indians.

Though he learned much about American Indians over the years, he did not regard their cultures and achievements highly. In his view, they needed to be dispossessed of their land and ultimately assimilated as much as possible.

"Washington, more than most, had a hand on the scales and was instrumental in the dispossession, defeat, exploitation and marginalization of Indian peoples," Calloway writes.

The American Indian world of the 18th century was in flux. Disease, war and loss of traditional lands had cut native populations to a shadow of their former selves. American Indians had become dependent on imported goods and often on provisions from the white world. Centuries-old alliances were breaking down, and traditional tribal ways were fading.

Calloway explores and explains the complex interplay of political, diplomatic and martial activity within Native America and also with whites. The reader encounters fascinating leaders and follows their sometimes-desperate attempts to safeguard their peoples. Calloway includes a list of the American Indians mentioned in his book for easy reference.

Washington died land-rich and cash-poor in 1799. His investments in Western lands—some going back decades—did not make him wealthy. Instead, he struggled to sell them and to collect rents owed by settlers. He owed taxes on some tracts, and even his beloved Mount Vernon weighed him down financially, Calloway writes. He was not the only speculator who failed to turn their gambles into fortunes.

As president, Washington developed "civilization plans" that he hoped would provide American Indians with a means to co-exist in a white world. These plans required them to reorient their values, economies and social structures to mirror those of the white settlers. Calloway details some of these plans, noting they ultimately "could not compete with the human and economic forces arrayed against them."

The Indian World of George Washington brilliantly explains the linked histories of two cultures at a watershed moment in time. It broadens our understanding of the roles different nations and tribes played in Colonial life and the Revolution, and how that helped shape Washington as a man and a leader.

— Bill Hudgins

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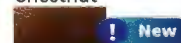
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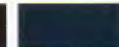
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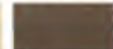
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Archaeological Dig Will Help Tell Stories of Pilgrims, Wampanoag

Isabella Rose, member of the Captain Joshua Gray-Jonathan Hatch Chapter, Cape Cod, Mass., stays busy: She's an author and teacher, and she volunteers for the Alden Kindred of America organization. She also has volunteered with Plymouth 400 Inc. for the past four years, most recently serving as an ambassador team leader with the organization.

Plymouth 400 is commemorating the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony through a series of events and educational programming. Before becoming an ambassador volunteer, Ms. Rose attended a training program created as a collaborative effort by Curry College and Plymouth 400 that focused on both Wampanoag and Pilgrim history.

Her work with Plymouth 400 enabled Ms. Rose to volunteer at stage 1 of an archaeological dig at Cole's Hill that is slated to become the home of Remembrance Park. The space, one of the last undeveloped parcels of land of the original settlement and homelands to the Wampanoag people, is now owned by the Pilgrim Hall Museum. Remembrance Park will commemorate stories of courage and survival from the early 17th century to today, tying the past to the present for visitors.

"The memorial will focus on The Great Dying of 1616-1619, which nearly decimated the Wampanoag people of Patuxet by European-introduced disease; the first Pilgrims' winter of 1620-1621, during which half the *Mayflower* colonists perished

of contagious sickness and harsh winter exposure; and the 2020 global pandemic, which has caused widespread mortality and altered the way of life for people across the globe," Ms. Rose said.

David Landon led the team from the University of Massachusetts-Boston's Fiske Center for Archaeological Research in the archaeological dig on Cole's Hill. As a volunteer at the dig, Ms. Rose spoke with visitors to the site and answered their questions about the dig and Remembrance Park. She also provided them with an informational pamphlet and gave tours around the site. One memorable engagement included a group of second- and third-grade students visiting the site to learn about the history, the artifacts found and the process of the archaeological dig. She was also able to assist the archaeologists by sifting through some of the dirt. "I learned so much about archaeology, site analysis, soil composition, and the process from start to finish from the archaeology team," Ms. Rose said.

One of the most interesting objects they discovered was a still-intact dress, with scattered beads and buttons nearby. Ms. Rose also described seeing the foundations of what may have been a kitchen in one area and possibly some type of basement in another



Artifacts from the archaeological dig at Cole's Hill help tell the story of the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians of Patuxet.

section. "It was so neat to use our hearts and imagination to connect to the history and the possible happenings of what went on in that particular area and ponder all the possibilities," she said. "Was it a butcher shop? A kitchen in someone's home?"

After the final report of the archaeological dig in summer 2022, the park's construction will move forward accordingly, most likely in early 2023. ☀

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Maria Victoria Dominguez, born in 1801, was a prominent California woman and one of the most well-known and influential women in old San Diego. She was reportedly gracious to immigrants and settlers who came to the area in search of gold. Maria Victoria married José Antonio Estudillo in 1824, and they built Casa de Estudillo on the plaza in what is now Old Town San Diego in 1828, adding to the structure as their family grew.

In addition to their own 10 children, Maria and José Antonio adopted many other children who needed a family. Maria Victoria managed the Casa de Estudillo for 21 years after her husband's death in 1852. Their 10 children all became prominent civic leaders in San Diego and throughout California, and she had 30 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren when she died in 1873.

The Estudillo home was originally L-shaped and built from adobe with many of the rooms opening out into a courtyard with gardens and space for livestock. The structure was restored in the early 1900s under the supervision of architect Hazel Wood Waterman, who added an additional room. It became part of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park in 1968 through



a donation by Legler Benbough, who purchased it in the early 1960s.

Today, Maria Victoria's home is one of five remaining original adobe buildings in Old Town, and it illustrates to visitors the significance of women in the early 1800s and the ways they contributed to the culture of western America by combining Native, Spanish, Mexican and American traditions. Thanks in part to a DAR Historic Preservation Grant to Boosters of Old Town and sponsored by the San Diego DAR Chapter, San Diego, Calif., her bedroom in the Casa de Estudillo, along with five other rooms in the house, will undergo a much-needed renovation to repair significant damage to the interior walls.

Traditional adobe building foundations consist of a cobble structure that allows the bricks to sit above ground level, which protects them from ground moisture. Adobe bricks are made of a mixture of soil, straw, sand and water and then poured into a wooden mold and dried in the sun.

Because adobe is not fired in a kiln like brick, it dissolves if it becomes wet. Water has seeped into the adobe walls as a result of previous restorations using inappropriate finishes such as latex and acrylic paint and even concrete in some areas. Cracks and other

small holes will also be repaired, and areas with exposed adobe will be stabilized. The walls will then be recovered with a lime plaster coating that acts as a whitewash and allows the adobe bricks to breathe.

Preserving the integrity of the structure will ensure that it is available to the hundreds of thousands of people who visit the house every year. 🌀

A Long History

The San Diego DAR Chapter has a long history with Casa de Estudillo, especially Maria Victoria's bedroom. In addition to placing a marker in the house, the chapter has also funded restoration of historic dining room chairs and other exhibits in Maria Victoria's bedroom.

"When we undertake new historic preservation projects at the Casa de Estudillo, we not only honor the history of the site and those who lived there, we honor the goals and priorities that we share with the generations of San Diego Chapter members who came before us and also took an interest in its preservation," said Pam Fair, San Diego Chapter Regent. Dr. Susan Hector, Chapter Historian, is working with Boosters of Old Town and Amy Lew, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, on the restoration project.

The DAR Historic Preservation Grants program invites public charity 501(c)(3) organizations to apply for matching fund grants to support worthwhile local projects related to historic preservation. For more details on applying for a DAR Historic Preservation Grant, visit www.dar.org/grants.



Left to right: Dr. Philip Mead, chief historian and curator at the Museum of the American Revolution, with Aileen Edge and David Edge

A Fascinating Garage Discovery

In 1781–1782, John Claypoole, the third husband of Betsy Ross, kept a diary that documented his experiences as a prisoner of war after the British captured his American privateer ship off the coast of Ireland during the Revolutionary War. The diary included letters and songs he transcribed. Though it was written before his marriage to Ross, Claypoole reported being with Ross's second husband, Joseph Ashburn, also a prisoner of war, as he died.

The diary was published in the late 1800s, but the original's location has been unknown to scholars for nearly a century. That is, until recently. In 2020, Aileen Edge and her husband, David,

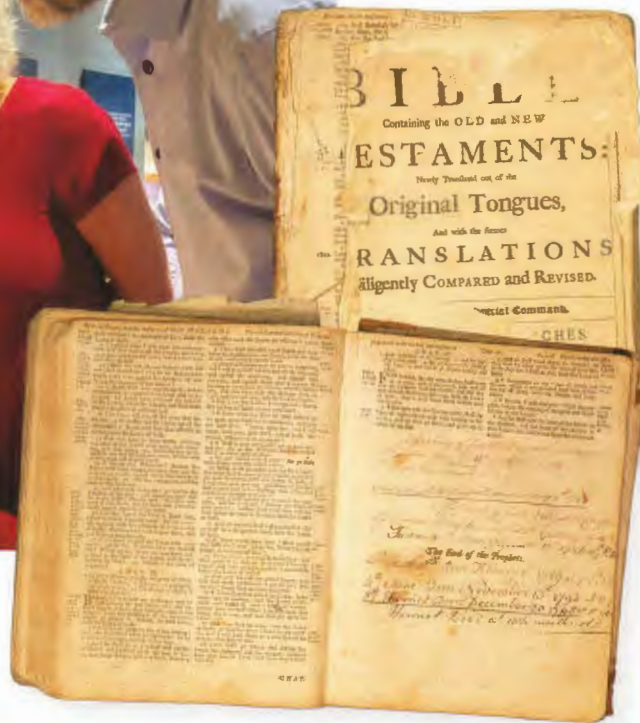
discovered the diary when cleaning the garage of Aileen's mother, Claire Canby Keleher, a descendant of Ross and Claypoole who had recently died. The book was wrapped in paper and tucked in a box beneath family letters from the 1950s.

"Discovering the diary was like something out of a movie," Edge said in a news release issued by the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. "I felt like the world stood still as I realized what I was holding in my hands—something that was connected to the beginning of our country. It's a miracle that it survived."

After finding the diary, Edge decided to donate it to the Museum of the

American Revolution so it could be appreciated and enjoyed rather than hidden away. Along with the diary, the Edge family also donated a family Bible that originally belonged to John Claypoole's mother, Elizabeth. The Bible documents the marriage of Claypoole and Ross, as well as the births of their children.

Claypoole's diary is on display in the museum's "War at Sea" gallery along with his wooden sea chest, which was donated to the museum in 2019 by another branch of the Ross and Claypoole family. The Bible will require conservation before being on exhibit, but the museum does have plans to display it. ★



Welcome, *Fortune*

By Nancy Koester

In late November 1621, the *Fortune* became the second ship to bring settlers to the Plymouth Colony. Its arrival took the Pilgrims by surprise; they did not expect another ship from England until spring. They needed supplies, but thanks to the Wampanoag who taught them how to grow crops, the Pilgrims had enough food to get through the winter.

Weeks after the first harvest celebration (what we now refer to as Thanksgiving), word reached Plymouth that a ship had been seen at Cape Cod. Fearing that the French had sent a raiding vessel down from Canada, the Pilgrims positioned a cannon above their harbor. It took time for the *Fortune* to find Plymouth. As it finally drew near and the Pilgrims saw its English flag, relief spread through the colony. Governor William Bradford described the *Fortune* as “a small ship ... unexpected or looked for.” It brought “35 persons to remaine & live in ye plantation; which did not a little rejoice” the original Colonists. Most of the newcomers were “lusty Yonge men, and many of them wild enough,” Bradford wrote.

The Merchant Adventurers of London (who also financed the *Mayflower* expedition) sent the *Fortune*, but it brought no provisions for the colony. “Not as much as a biscuit-cake or any other victuals,” Bradford wrote. “Neither had they any bedding ... nor pot, nor pan” nor warm clothing. To feed everyone through the winter, rations were cut in half.

One thing the *Fortune* brought was a letter from the Merchant Adventurers, rebuking the Pilgrims for keeping the *Mayflower* too long and then returning it to England empty. The investors had expected some trade goods to pay down the Pilgrims’ debt for the voyage, and their letter demanded that the *Fortune* be loaded with goods for its return trip.

The *Fortune* left Plymouth on December 13, 1621, bearing furs and lumber worth some 500 pounds (roughly half the colony’s debt). But when a navigational error brought the *Fortune* into French waters, it was impounded and its entire cargo seized. On February 17, 1622, the *Fortune* arrived in England ... empty.

Back in Plymouth Colony, the rationing of food “was hard,” Bradford wrote,

“but they bore it patiently.” In time the *Fortune* passengers strengthened the colony, for many were skilled at practical trades. A few men may have brought wives, but the only woman named on the passenger list was Martha Ford. “The Goodwife Ford was delivered of a son the first night she landed, and both of them are very well,” one colonist wrote. Women were scarce in the colony, and after her husband died, “the Widow Ford” remarried. Two of her descendants, James and Absalom Ford, fought the British at the Battle of Saratoga.

Nancy Koester is the historian of the Harriet G. Walker DAR Chapter in Shoreview, Minn. Her Patriot, Absalom Ford, descended from Martha Ford of the *Fortune*. ★

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What's in a Name

Discover the meaning behind some of the DAR chapters' unique names.

The **Aloha Chapter, Honolulu, Hawai'i**, was organized on March 6, 1897, by Agnes Hall Boyd Judd. The first chapter meeting was held in her home. "Aloha" was chosen as the chapter's name because it was symbolic of the relations between the United States and Hawai'i during that time. Charter member dues were 25 cents. Mrs. Judd was born in Watertown, N.Y., and married Albert Francis Judd, whose father was a medical missionary in Hawai'i. A DAR plaque marks her grave in Nuuanu Cemetery. The chapter gifted a koa table to the new Memorial Continental Hall and also sent money to France to help the village of Tilloloy after World War I. In 1945, Dr. Rose A. Bowers gave the chapter a small house. The home was too small, so it was sold, and the chapter purchased another house located in the Makiki District of Honolulu in 1958. It contains many historic items donated by members. Today, the Aloha Chapter has more than 180 members and continues to spread the "Aloha" spirit.

The **Betty Washington Chapter, Lawrence, Kan.**, organized on October 17, 1896, celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2021. The chapter is named to honor Betty Washington Lewis, the younger sister of George Washington. She was born on June 20, 1733, the daughter of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington. Elizabeth (Betty) married Fielding Lewis in 1750 at the age of

16. They built a house in Fredericksburg, Va., in 1752 named Kenmore House. Betty and Fielding were strong supporters of the American Revolution, and their loyalty to the cause cost them financially. Kenmore was heavily mortgaged to meet the costs of their patriotic endeavors including a foundry to make guns in Fredericksburg. Betty was widowed at age 49 in December 1781. She struggled financially but remained at Kenmore for 14 years until she lived with her daughter. She died March 31, 1797. The family was never compensated for their enormous expenditures in support of the Revolutionary War. Kenmore is now owned and operated as a house museum by the George Washington Foundation.

The **Molly Ockett Chapter, Bridgton, Maine**, reorganized on October 24, 2020, honors an American Indian healer and midwife. Singing Bird, a member of the Pigwacket tribe, was baptized Marie Agathe (sometimes spelled Agatha), which sounded like Molly Ockett to the settlers. Her healing skills were legendary, notably saving the life of Hannibal Hamlin, future Maine governor and vice president to Abraham Lincoln, on a night during which she was met with repeated prejudice, having been turned away from every house but one in a snowstorm. During the British-backed American Indian raids by Tomhegan in 1781, Molly displayed her bravery and willingness to aid the settlers, warning Colonel Clark of Tomhegan's plans to kill him and claim bounty money for the scalp. Grateful for her kindness, Clark tried for many years to repay Molly. The independent woman refused until old age prompted her to accept a home and care from him, first in Boston then in her native Maine. She died in 1816. ★

Happy Birthday, Clara Barton

Clarissa Harlowe Barton, better known as Clara, is one of the most well-known and honored women in American history.

Ms. Barton, born on December 25, 1821, in North Oxford, Mass., first became a teacher, establishing the first free public school in 1852 in Bordentown, N.J. In 1854, she moved to Washington, D.C., to work as a recording clerk for the U.S. Patent Office, becoming one of the first women to work for the federal government. During the Civil War, she risked her life to bring supplies to Union soldiers on the battlefield. She procured a military pass, signed by U.S. Surgeon General William Hammond, which allowed her



inside military lines to provide nursing care for soldiers. After the war ended, she established the Missing Soldiers Office, a nationwide effort to help relatives and friends find loved ones. The office responded to more than 63,000 letters from families and located 22,000 men.

In 1881, at the age of 59, she founded the American Red Cross after learning of the international movement while visiting Geneva, Switzerland, in 1869. She led the organization for 23 years.

Committed to serving others, Ms. Barton was also a charter member of the DAR. At the first DAR organizing meeting on October 11, 1890, she was appointed DAR Surgeon General (an office no longer in existence) because of her renowned efforts during the Civil War and her founding of the American Red Cross. ★



CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Native American Heritage Month began as a weeklong celebration in 1986, when President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the week of November 23–30 as “American Indian Week.” Since 1995, every president has issued an annual proclamation designating the entire month of November as the time to celebrate the culture and contributions of American Indians.

To honor our nation’s first inhabitants, consider celebrating in one of these ways:

Visit a reservation or museum.

There are approximately 326 American Indian reservations in the United States. They are not tourist attractions—rather they are homes for tribes and communities. However, some reservations welcome visitors and offer museums to educate the public about their history and culture. For example, the Pamunkey Indian Reservation in King William, Va., has the Pamunkey Indian Museum and Cultural Center, which opened in 1980. The Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, N.C., tells the 11,000-year-old story of the Cherokee tribe. Separate from reservations is the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of the American Indian, which has campuses in New York City; Suitland, Md.; and Washington, D.C.

Read works by American Indian authors. One of the best ways to learn about American Indian history and culture is to read books written by American Indian authors. Well-known authors include Joy Harjo, Charles Eastman, John Joseph Mathews and Sherman Alexie.

Support Native-led nonprofit organizations. Organizations such as the National Indian Child Welfare Association are working to address disparities in state child welfare systems, while nonprofits such as the Native American Rights Fund and Association on American Indian Affairs have helped protect legal and cultural rights of Native nations and people. ★

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EVERLASTING HONOR

**THE TOMB OF
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER**
CENTENNIAL



GETTY IMAGES

After World War I, the United States faced a major obstacle in its struggle to heal. An ocean lay between the grieving nation and its 116,000-plus fallen soldiers, thousands of whom remained unidentified. Distance, uncertainty and the magnitude of the loss made closure hard to come by.

By Courtney Peter

To assuage this sense of suffering, the federal government created a memorial belonging not only to the collective American public, but also to each individual family of a soldier who was lost but unaccounted for. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, a symbol of sacrifice, honor, service and vigilance revered among the country's most sacred shrines, commemorates its centennial this Veterans Day.

One to Represent Many

Despite the ID tags issued to every soldier and the wartime Graves Registration Service established to retrieve, identify, transport and bury the dead, more than 2,000 bodies recovered during World War I could not be identified, making the return to their homes of record challenging.

Britain and France, having lost more than 2 million soldiers combined and facing massive postwar rebuilding projects, chose not to repatriate their war dead. Instead, on November 11, 1920, Britain and France each honored a single unknown soldier brought home to be reinterred in hallowed ground—the British unknown inside Westminster Abbey and the French unknown at the base of the Arc de Triomphe.

The ensuing public outcry for the United States to honor an unknown soldier of its own found a champion in U.S. Representative Hamilton Fish III of New York, himself a World War I veteran. In December 1920, Fish introduced a House resolution to authorize the interment of an unknown American soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Its passage set in motion plans for a state funeral on Armistice Day 1921.

But first, the unknown had to be selected. Weeks ahead of the service, four unidentified bodies were exhumed from cemeteries in France. Sergeant Edward F. Younger, who was wounded twice in World War I combat, placed a spray of roses atop one of their four identical caskets to select the American unknown. "Perhaps one

of them had fought with me, had befriended me, had possibly shielded me from a bullet that might have put me in his place," Sgt. Younger later recalled.

Rest in Honored Glory

On November 9, 1921, the American everyman of the Great War arrived in Washington, D.C., to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. A day later, 90,000 visitors streamed past his casket. On November 11, a horse-drawn caisson transported the unknown to Arlington National Cemetery.

"Burial here is rather more than a sign of the Government's favor, it is a suggestion of a tomb in the heart of the nation, sorrowing for its noble dead," said President Warren G. Harding, who awarded the unknown the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration. Several nations matched the honor by bestowing their highest military awards as well.

Rep. Fish placed the first wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a tribute since repeated by thousands, from U.S. presidents, foreign leaders and public figures to schoolchildren, Honor Flights and patriotic groups, including the DAR. But the monument dedicated a century ago looked much different than the Tomb does today.

As a placeholder, a simple blank marble slab originally covered the Tomb. In 1928, architect Lorimer Rich and sculptor Thomas Hudson Jones, both World War I veterans, won a national competition to design the shrine's permanent monument. Their design, completed in 1932, not only

harmonized with the adjacent Memorial Amphitheater, but also turned the Tomb into a focal point of the cemetery, emphasized by a memorial plaza and granite staircase.

The east façade of the rectangular marble sarcophagus features the figures of Peace, Victory and Valor. A sextet of panels on the north and south sides bear wreaths to symbolize the six major World War I offensives in which Americans fought. The inscription on the Tomb's west façade echoes the

'Never Forget' Gardens

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Society of the Honor Guard extends a nationwide invitation to all Americans to plant gardens as a visual reminder to honor our veterans and their families. A garden marker can be purchased to place in the garden to serve as a living tribute to all of America's veterans. Visit tombguard.org/centennial/projects to learn more.

words carved into the gravestones of all American unknowns buried in Europe: "Here Rests in Honored Glory An American Soldier Known But to God."

A Standard of Perfection

As living symbols of the country's care and respect for the unknown and his place of rest, the sentinels who guard the Tomb are inseparable from the iconic memorial itself. To help preserve the solemnity of the site, a military guard was first posted at the Tomb in 1926. What began as a daylight shift became a continuous vigil in 1937. Eleven years later, the honorable duty was assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as the Old Guard.

The mesmerizing precision of the Tomb guards' rituals is grounded in tribute, not theater. During the changing of the guard, a sentinel walks 21 paces, turns and pauses for 21 seconds, silently evoking a 21-gun salute.

"Every formation is done exactly the same so we can deliver the highest level of dignity to visitors of the nation's capital, and most importantly to the fallen in our national cemetery. A lot of people will only see that one time, so it has to be perfect," said Colonel Jason Garkey, who commanded the Old Guard from 2016–2018, and retired from the U.S. Army in 2020.

Without speaking or interacting with visitors, the Old Guard represents the entire Army, offering a powerful point of connection for each observer to translate for themselves. "The Tomb represents so much to so many, and every person who goes there has a different personal experience," COL Garkey said. "It's important to remember that we don't know the unknowns. That anonymity provides a strength for people to gravitate toward." ★

UNKNOWN, BUT NOT ALONE

The World War I unknown is not the sole occupant of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On May 28, 1958, a World War II unknown and a Korean War unknown were interred at the site. A Vietnam War unknown rested there for 14 years, until the body was exhumed in 1998 and positively identified as Air Force 1st Lieutenant Michael Joseph Blassie, who was reinterred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis. The next year, the Vietnam unknown's vacant crypt was rededicated to honor all missing U.S. service members from that war.

CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

Visit arlingtoncemetery.mil/Tomb100 for resources and information about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier centennial commemoration, including an education module and a centennial procession incorporating elements of the unknown's state funeral procession from 1921.

BRINGING THE FALLEN HOME

After World War I, the United States sent 74,000 letters to the families of fallen soldiers, asking if they wanted the body of their loved one shipped home for burial. Between 1919 and 1922, the government identified, located and exhumed about 44,000 bodies and shipped them home for burial.

HONORING VETERANS

The **Department of Veterans Affairs** states that there were 19 million veterans at the beginning of 2021. To honor our veterans, multiple events are taking place across the nation.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY'S REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Arlington, Va., November 11, 2021
arlingtoncemetery.mil/Media/News/Post/11228/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier-Centennial-Commemoration

On every Veterans Day, Arlington National Cemetery hosts a ceremony to honor America's veterans. This year's celebration coincides with the centennial commemoration for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

FREE NATIONAL PARKS DAY

All national parks, November 11, 2021
nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/veterans-day.htm

Many national parks have direct connections to the military—dozens of battlefields and historic sites honor the service of American veterans. To honor those who have served and sacrificed, the National Park Service is offering free admission to any national park on Veterans Day.

VETERANS HOMECOMING WEEK

Branson, Mo., November 5–11, 2021
explorebranson.com/article/veterans-homcoming-week

From November 5–11 each year, Branson hosts Veterans Homecoming Week, a celebration to honor the brave men and women who have served our country. The annual event kicks off with an opening ceremony on November 5, and there are multiple events scheduled throughout the week.



It is Time to Celebrate!

This time of year is full of celebrations and traditions.

Celebrate your commitment to preserving the past, educating the leaders of tomorrow, and promoting patriotism with a gift to DAR this year.

Now is also a great time to start planning your charitable giving for 2022. For more information, please complete and return the enclosed reply card or visit our complimentary resource library at plannedgiving.dar.org.

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A RUGGED GEM

A survivor of war and fire, the Nelson House honors Yorktown, Va.'s, most-renowned Patriot

By Bill Hudgins | Photography by Nancy Sheppard

In 1730, Thomas “Scotch Tom” Nelson, a merchant in Yorktown, Va., built the “Nelson House,” a two-story house that became the home of one of the First Families of Virginia. Regarded as one of the state’s finest examples of early Georgian architecture, it stands as a monument to Virginia’s prominent Nelson family.

A Virginia Dynasty

The handsome house befitted the Nelson family’s status as one of Virginia’s wealthiest and most powerful families. The dynasty began when 19-year-old “Scotch Tom” Nelson (1677–1745) arrived in Yorktown from Scotland in 1696.

Scotch Tom quickly established himself as a merchant, dealing in tobacco, slaves and imports from England. He was also a ferry operator, mill owner, farmer, public official and major

landowner, according to the Yorktown Preservation Society. Scotch Tom sent his sons, William and Thomas, to England to be educated. When they returned, they entered the family mercantile business and Virginia politics. As the eldest son, William inherited and expanded the business after his father died. He married Elizabeth Burwell, and their first child, named Thomas Jr. to distinguish him from his uncle Thomas, was born December 26, 1738.

Like his father and uncle, Thomas Jr. went to England at age 14 to be educated. After graduating from Cambridge University in 1761, he returned home to the family business and in 1764 was elected to the House of Burgesses from York County.

In 1762, he married Lucy Grymes, and they had 11 children who survived infancy. When his father died in 1772, Thomas Jr. inherited 20,000 acres of land, 30,000 pounds of

sterling—around \$9 million today—and 400 slaves, making him immensely wealthy.

Thomas Jr. was an ardent supporter of the Patriot cause. He was elected to the Colony's five provincial conventions and helped form and lead the Virginia militia. He also introduced what is known as the Virginia Resolution calling for independence and, after the convention adopted it, he presented it to Congress.

The Fifth Virginia Convention in 1775 chose him as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Thomas Jr. signed the Declaration of Independence, but his health soon began to deteriorate. He resigned from Congress in early 1777 and returned to Virginia, where he was appointed brigadier general in the militia.

He briefly returned to Congress in 1779, but left again because of ill health. The British invaded Virginia in 1780 as part of their aggressive southern campaign. In June 1781, the legislature elected Thomas Jr. governor with "powers

approaching those of a military dictator" to deal with the crisis, according to the National Park Service (NPS). He vigorously defended the Old Dominion against the British.



According to Nelson family lore, when the British set up headquarters in his home, Thomas Jr. ordered the Virginia artillery to bombard the house. In the 1900s, cannonballs were embedded in an outside wall to showcase the damage.

Thomas Jr. led the Virginia militia during the Siege of Yorktown. Family tradition holds that when rumors circulated the British had set up headquarters in his home, he ordered the artillery to bombard the house. The house was damaged but remained largely intact. In the early 1900s, cannonballs were embedded in an outside wall to highlight the damage.

Thomas Jr. resigned as governor in late 1781, ill and in financial straits. His businesses had suffered during the war. Even worse, the state never repaid the loans he had solicited on his personal guarantee, leaving him deep in debt. He died in 1789 at the age of 50. He was first buried in an

unmarked grave "so that his creditors could not hold his body as collateral," according to the NPS. Later, he was reburied at Grace Episcopal Church, although for reasons unknown, his

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— Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America, and member of the Hannah Weston Chapter NSDAR, Machias, Maine

Daughters of the American Revolution and Wreaths Across America are working together to ensure communities across the United States learn the indelible mark our veterans have on our country and the value of honoring their sacrifices.

To learn more about how to get your local chapter involved, please visit learn.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/fundraising



grave remained unmarked until the early 20th century.

An Architectural Gem

The house is a remarkable survivor. It endured cannon fire during the 1781 Siege of Yorktown and survived the 1814 Great Fire, which incinerated most of the once-flourishing port town. The house was again damaged during the 1862 Battle of Yorktown. It served as a hospital for Confederate and Union soldiers, who carved their names into the bricks around the front door. The names can still be seen today.

The Nelson family owned the home until 1908. In 1914, Captain (USN) and Mrs. George P. Blow bought and renovated it as the centerpiece of their estate, York Hall. Their changes included adding dormers and reconfiguring the interior, detailed in a profile by the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH).

The NPS acquired the house in 1968 and restored its original colonial appearance. It is a National Historic Landmark and part of the Colonial National Historical Park.

Much of the brick-and-mortar exterior of the home is original, as are the inside wall panels, marble fireplaces and hardwood floors, except for the downstairs hall. The interior features vaulted ceilings and tall windows. The bedrooms look out onto the back of the house, where a sunken garden can be seen. In the dining room, cabinets are artfully concealed behind paneling.



During the 1862 Battle of Yorktown, the Nelson House served as a hospital for Confederate and Union soldiers, who carved their names and initials into the bricks around the front door. The names can still be seen today.

Outside, the bricks' chocolate color suggests they were imported from southern England. If so, they likely would have served as ballast aboard Scotch Tom Nelson's ships, according to the NPS' online history of the building.

Stone and red brick accents embellish the street side of the house, while the rear is much plainer. The lighter-colored brickwork above the windows is made with "rubbed" bricks, which were rubbed together to brighten the color and achieve

sharper and straighter edges.

Inside the walls are painted to match the original palette. Most of the furnishings are reproductions except for some period pieces that did not belong to the Nelson family. Thomas Jr.'s estate inventory included 12 green Windsor chairs, a large Turkish carpet, two mahogany dining tables and three bedsteads with silk curtains.

Samples of the family china and other household furnishings are permanently displayed at the Yorktown Custom House Museum (see sidebar).

Researchers have identified the locations of at least five Georgian-style outbuildings that stood to the right of the main house. These served various purposes including kitchens, wash-houses, smokehouses, dairy houses and slaves' quarters.

Informal tours of this early 18th-century home's first floor are offered throughout the year as staffing permits.

Yorktown Custom House

Across the street from the Thomas Nelson house is the historic Yorktown Custom House, which was built around 1720–21 by Custom Agent Richard Ambler, while he and his family lived next door.

During the Revolutionary War, the building first served as barracks for British troops, and then for French troops after the surrender at Yorktown. The Ambler family owned it until 1797. During the 1862 Siege of Yorktown, Confederate General J.B. Magruder used it as his headquarters.

In 1882, Dr. Daniel McNorton bought the Custom House at public auction. Dr. McNorton was an African-American, and he and his brother, Robert, established a practice there for local African-American patients.

After years of use in various capacities, the Custom House was purchased April 24, 1924, by the Comte de Grasse DAR Chapter, which restored and maintains the historic structure.

In 1972, the U.S. Customs Service designated it as one of only 12 Historic Customs Houses in America. It is registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark and included on the National Register of Historic Places. It is open for tours.

For more information, visit comtedegrasse-dar.org/customhouse.html.



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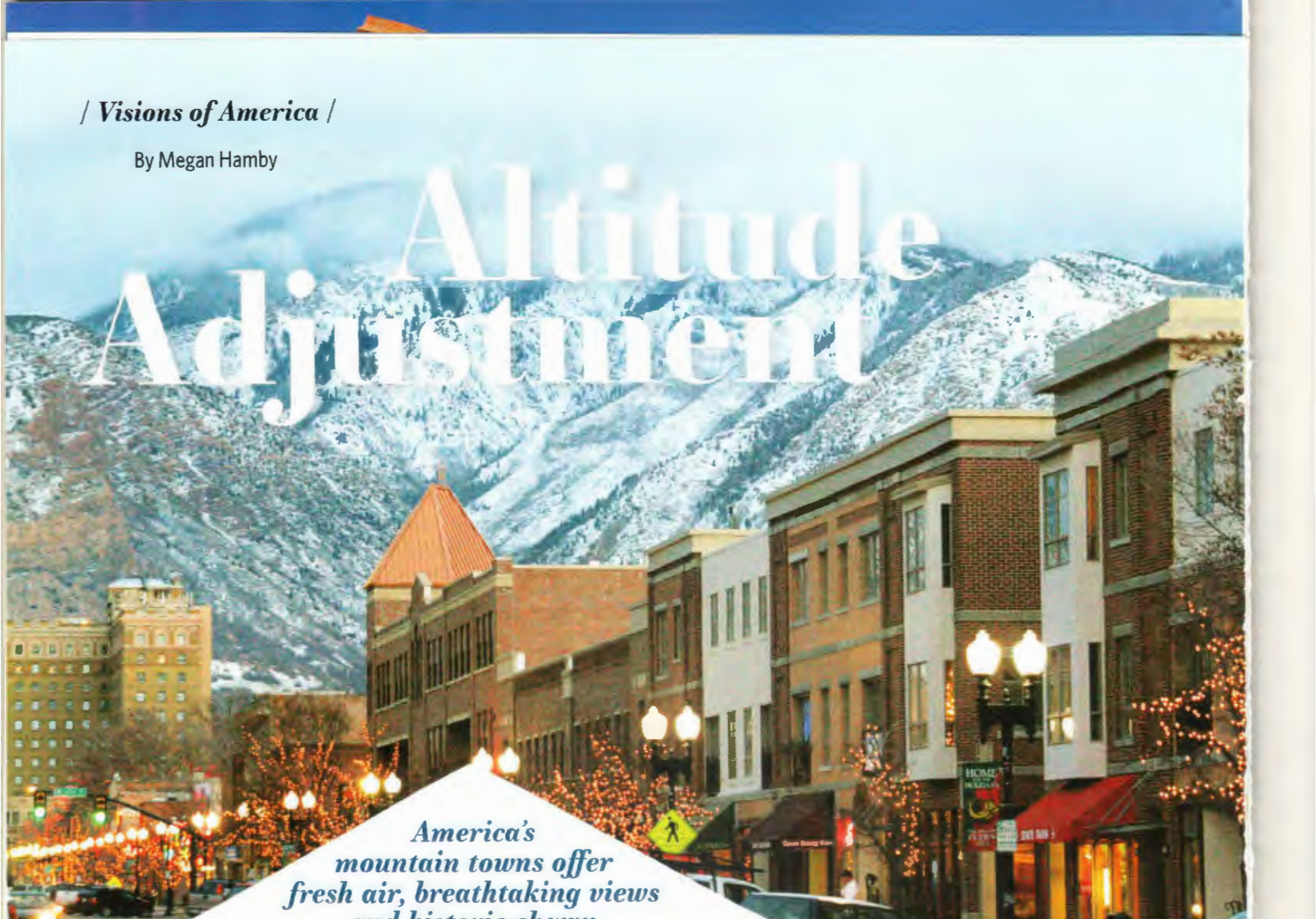
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By Megan Hamby

Altitude Adjustment



*America's
mountain towns offer
fresh air, breathtaking views
and historic charm*

"The mountains are calling, and I must go."

— John Muir

John Muir, born in April 1838, has become one of America's most famous naturalists and conservationists. Through his writing, he inspired (and still inspires) people to protect and preserve America's great outdoors, earning him the nickname "The Father of the National Parks."

Muir's words continue to urge people to explore America's great outdoors—specifically, the mountain ranges scattered across the country. Nestled in these mountains are historic towns that invite visitors to experience the fresh mountain air, breathtaking views, and rich fragrances from pines, flowers and other plants.

These mountain towns are calling—so go!

OGDEN, UTAH

The first permanent settlement by people of European descent in Utah was in this area—and it was originally named Fort Buenaventura. In 1847, Mormon settlers bought the fort, and four years later, Ogden was incorporated as a city. On March 8, 1869, the first locomotive came through Ogden, with residents welcoming the train with banners that read, "Hail to the Highway of the Nations! Utah bids you Welcome." Today, Ogden is home to 84,000 people and is the seat of Weber County. Just 25 miles north of Salt Lake City, Ogden is nestled between the Wasatch Mountain Range and the shoreline of Great Salt Lake. The U.S. Forest Service maintains more than 230 miles of mountain biking, hiking and equestrian trails, and the city is adjacent to 170,000 acres of national forest.

Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum: The museum houses artifacts related to early pioneer life in the Ogden area. Visitors can view pottery, American Indian artifacts, farm equipment and guns. A pioneer-era kitchen, bedroom and parlor are also on display. webercountyheritagefoundation.com/daughtersofpioneersmuseum

Ogden Nature Center: This 152-acre nature preserve and education center gives visitors an opportunity to see native animal species, traverse walking trails and connect with nature. ogdennaturecenter.org



BETHEL, MAINE

The mountain village of Bethel, Maine, traces its history to a “1768 land grant made by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to men whose ancestors had fought in a campaign to conquer Canada in 1690,” according to the Bethel Historical Society. However, the Revolutionary War slowed settlement of the region—by 1781, only 10 families resided in the area. After the war, the population grew rapidly, resulting in the town’s incorporation under the name Bethel on June 10, 1796.

Today, Bethel is considered “Maine’s most beautiful mountain village,” nestled between some of the state’s tallest mountains to the north and the White Mountain National Forest to the west. This picturesque hamlet offers boutiques and eateries, as well as year-round recreational opportunities, such as hiking, canoeing and kayaking, snowshoeing and skiing.

Sunday River Ski Resort: Just minutes from Bethel is the Sunday River Ski Resort, a four-season destination for outdoor enthusiasts.



In the winter, hit the slopes on skis, snowboard or a ski bike. In the summer and fall months, visitors can enjoy scenic rides up the Chondola, one of only five combination lifts in North America, along with hiking, mountain biking and more. sundayriver.com

Maine Mineral and Gem Museum: The museum showcases Maine’s geological history, displaying renowned mineral and rock collections. The museum also features one of the world’s foremost collections of extraterrestrial rocks, including meteorites from Mars, the moon and the asteroid belt. mainemineralmuseum.org



LAKE PLACID, N.Y.

With a population just shy of 2,400 people, Lake Placid, N.Y., is a small village in the town of North Elba in the Adirondack Mountains. The village was incorporated in 1900, but its history dates back almost a century earlier. It was founded in the early 19th century to develop an iron ore mining operation. By the end of the 19th century, the area had become a popular destination for leisure and winter sports among the wealthy. Melvil Dewey, inventor of the Dewey Decimal System, designed what was called the “Placid Park Club” in 1895, keeping the club open through the winter of 1905.

By 1921, the area had a ski jump, speed skating venue and ski association, and in 1929, Dewey’s son convinced the International Olympic Committee to bring the Winter Olympics to Lake Placid. Lake Placid is known today as a two-time site of the Winter Olympics, hosting the games in 1932 and 1980. The village continues to be a year-round tourist destination for visitors looking to explore the Adirondack Mountains.

Lake Placid Olympic Museum: This free museum features multimedia exhibits and memorabilia displays that highlight the Olympic history of Lake Placid. lpom.org

High Falls Gorge: Just 12 miles from Lake Placid is High Falls Gorge, a half-mile round-trip walk that gives visitors a close-up view of four majestic waterfalls. With sturdy bridges and groomed paths, the path is accessible during every season. In the winter, complimentary traction for footwear is provided. A wheelchair accessible path is also available. highfallsgorge.com



BIG BEAR LAKE, CALIF.

The region now known as Big Bear Lake was once home to the indigenous Serrano Indian tribe, who referred to the territory as “Yahaviat,” which translates to “Pine Place.” In the late 1700s, Spanish explorers arrived in the area, and on May 20, 1810, Francisco Dumetz established a supply point in an area he named San Bernardino, because it was the feast day of St. Bernard of Sienna. In 1845, Benjamin Wilson led a group of men into the San Bernardino Mountains to hunt for American Indians who had been raiding ranches in nearby Riverside. He discovered Big Bear Valley, giving it the name it still has today. By the late 1800s, gold mining was popular in the area.

Today, Big Bear Lake, high in the San Bernardino Mountains, offers year-round adventure, with 22 miles of lake shoreline, hundreds of miles of trails for hiking and biking, and more than 1,000 acres for skiing.



Big Bear Discovery Center: In the heart of the Big Bear Valley, the Big Bear Discovery center is the go-to source for information about outdoor adventures in the area. At the Discovery Center, visitors can also take guided nature tours and bird walks and learn how to track animals. mountainsfoundation.org/programs/big-bear-discovery-center

Big Bear Alpine Zoo: The Big Bear Alpine Zoo, founded in 1959, is a rehabilitation facility for wild animals that have been permanently affected by human behavior and are unable to return to the wild. Visitors to the zoo can see animals that are native to the region, such as grizzly bears, Canada geese, bobcats, gray wolves, great horned owls and more. bigbearzoo.org



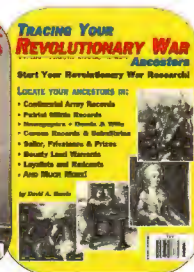
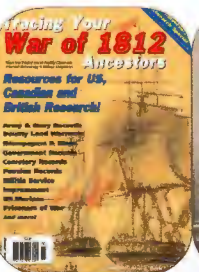
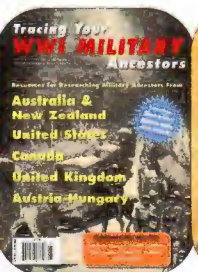
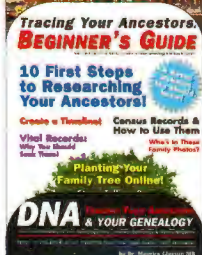
TRAVELERS REST, S.C.

Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Travelers Rest comes by its name honestly. Although it was originally home to several American Indian tribes, such as the Catawba, Creek and Cherokee tribes, the small town—established in 1808—was first known as a resting place for tired travelers heading west. Throughout the 1800s, drovers from Kentucky and Tennessee brought livestock across the mountains as they traveled toward the coast, and families came to the area for the summers.

Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail: Bikers will enjoy this 22-mile greenway that runs along Main Street, connecting to nearby Greenville. Along the trail are benches and gazebos, as well as trailside restaurants. greenvillerec.com/swamprabbit/



Dicey Langston Statue: Laodicea “Dicey” Langston, well-known for spying on Loyalists during the Revolutionary War, lived in Travelers Rest and is buried there. In 2019, city officials created the Dicey Langston Project Committee to memorialize Langston with a bronze statue in downtown Travelers Rest, with plans to install the statue by winter 2021. (Read more about Dicey Langston in the March/April 2020 issue of *American Spirit*.) diceylangstonproject.com



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AS

FARGO

North Dakota's Largest City Is Just a Little North of Normal

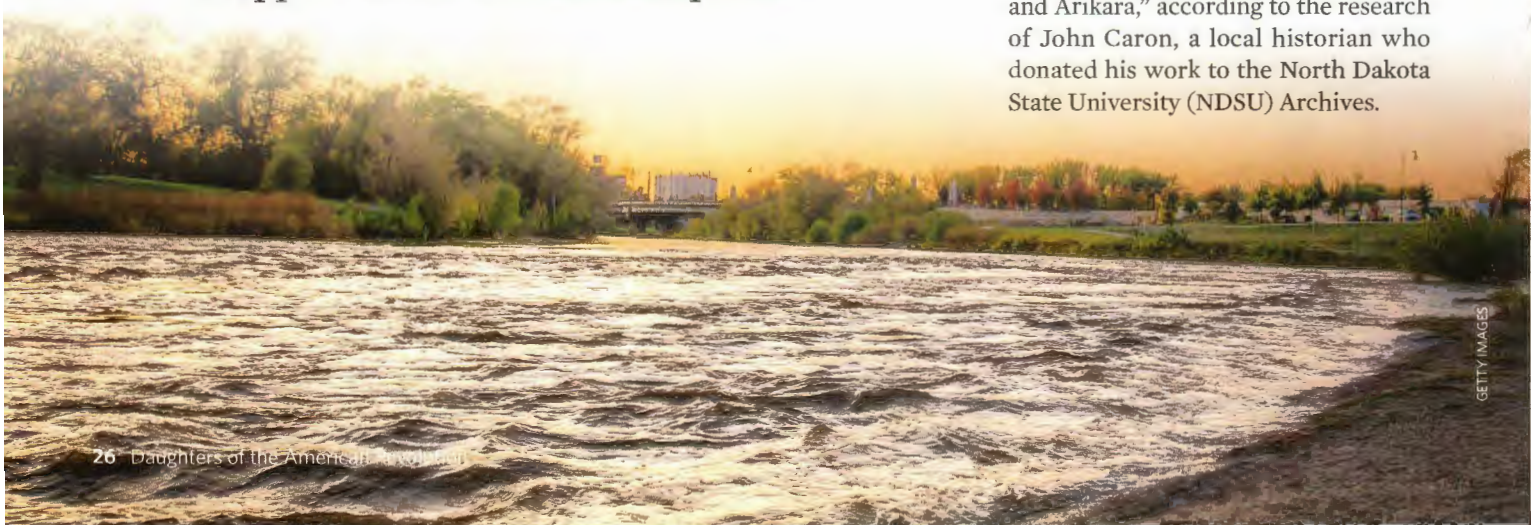
— By Kim Hill —

Local leaders in Fargo, N.D., like to boast that their city is “North of Normal.” However you want to interpret that, it’s a fitting description for an area with a storied history that includes glaciers, numerous American Indian peoples, Vikings and a rich farming tradition. But North Dakota’s largest city is far from mired in the past. Today’s Fargo is notable for its quality of life, variety of cultural and entertainment offerings, and focus on the future. For visitors as well as residents, it is a land full of opportunities and the unexpected.

Fertile Fields

The I-94 Visitors Center is housed in a repurposed grain elevator—fitting for an area where agriculture has long been vital. Fargo and its twin city, Moorhead, Minn., straddle the Red River, which forms most of the North Dakota-Minnesota border and flows northward before emptying into Lake Winnipeg in Canada. As the last ice sheet began to retreat from present-day North Dakota centuries ago, an immense glacial lake formed. Centuries later, Lake Agassiz drained away, leaving clay-rich sediments covered for thousands of years by prairie grassland. The rich, black soil of the Red River Valley is one of the most fertile farming regions in the world.

Big-game hunting cultures arose after the retreat of the glaciers, and archaeologists have dated later settlements of peoples who hunted, gathered and farmed to about 2000 B.C. When the first European explorers arrived, “distinct Native American groups existed in what is now North Dakota. These included the Dakota or Lakota nation, Assiniboine, Cheyenne, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara,” according to the research of John Caron, a local historian who donated his work to the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Archives.



Painted bison are displayed throughout both Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn. In 2005, The Arts Partnership unveiled the bison as part of an exhibit called "Herd About the Prairie: A Virtual Art Stampede."



Bonanzaville, USA, gives visitors insight into the lives of early 19th-century settlers.



The Fargo Air Museum is North Dakota's premier aviation destination.





The Fargo Theatre was built in 1926, and today, the iconic marquee is the most photographed spot in the city.



and it's no wonder with so many places of interest and things to do. With more than 3,000 works in its permanent collection, the **Plains Art Museum** (the largest art museum in the state) focuses on national and regional contemporary art, Native American art and traditional folk art. It is one of several

Railroad Vital to Growth

Railroads played a major role in the area's settlement. As the Northern Pacific Railway pushed west, settlers staked their claims based on where it would cross the Red River. A post office was established in October 1871, and the town was given the name Centralia. The settlement was renamed Fargo in honor of William G. Fargo, who was a director and shareholder of the Northern Pacific Railway and a founder of modern-day firms American Express and Wells Fargo. The city of Moorhead was named after another railway executive, William G. Moorhead.

The railroads brought more settlers who were drawn to the Red River Valley's fertile farmland. The abundance of cheap land and the completion of railroads between farming areas and markets allowed the establishment of bonanza farms. These large-scale farming operations mostly raised wheat and were primarily owned by companies and run by professional managers. Fargo commemorates this part of the area's history with Bonanzaville, USA, a pioneer village and museum. The complex of 40 buildings includes Fargo's first house,

a schoolhouse, a saloon, a church and a fully stocked mercantile store. Docents in period dress describe life on the prairie in the late 1800s and early 1900s. (Read more about Bonanzaville in the November/December 2019 issue of *American Spirit*.)

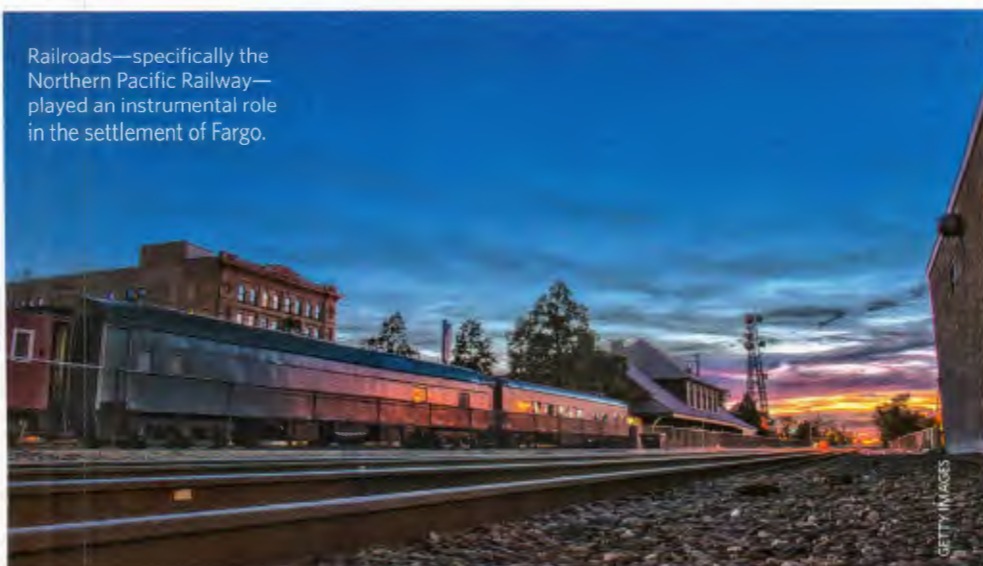
Top of the List

Modern-day Fargo consistently ranks near the apex of numerous lists of "top places" to live, raise families or retire,

museums and galleries in Fargo, including the Ecce Gallery, which exhibits the work of emerging and respected local and regional artists. At the **Fargo Air Museum**, you can view aircraft ranging from a Wright Brothers flyer to an MQ-1 Predator UAV, a long-endurance unmanned aircraft system for reconnaissance missions.

Built in 1926 as an art house cinema and vaudeville theater, the historic

Railroads—specifically the Northern Pacific Railway—played an instrumental role in the settlement of Fargo.



Fargo Theatre now offers first-run, independent and foreign films along with concerts and other live entertainment. The theater was restored in the 1990s to its art-deco style and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. City officials say the downtown theater's iconic marquee is the most photographed spot in Fargo.

Concertgoers can catch national touring acts at the **Fargodome** on the NDSU campus. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the venue played host to such icons as Paul McCartney, Garth Brooks, Taylor Swift, Celine Dion and Bruce Springsteen. The Fargodome is also the home field of NDSU's football team, the Bison, who have dominated the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision for a decade, winning the national championship for the 2019 season.

In addition to football, winter sports such as hockey and curling are popular activities. Fargo's semiprofessional hockey team, the Fargo Force, is a member of the Tier 1 United States Hockey League. The team plays at the 5,000-seat **Scheels Arena**. The Fargo-Moorhead Curling Club has been gathering since September 1938, and in 2013 the club opened a \$2.7 million building with six ice sheets.



There are not any bison at the **Red River Zoo**, but you will see exotic and native animals from areas around the world with climates similar to the Red River Valley. The zoo specializes in the care and breeding of some of the world's rarest cold-climate species, such as the gray fox, Pallas' cat and North American river otter. On the Red River, you can canoe, kayak or fish, or enjoy outdoor activities such as biking, ice skating, cross-country skiing and more at one of the city's many parks. **Lindenwood Park** is the area's largest multi-use park, where you can explore the banks of the Red River on groomed paths and cross the walking bridge to visit **Gooseberry Park** on the Minnesota side of the river.

As it celebrates 150 years from the establishment of its post office, Fargo is a city on the move—brimming with youthful energy and boasting a thriving local community. Fargo welcomes visitors who love the unexpected and want to travel a little North of Normal. ☀

VISIT FARGO-MOORHEAD

/ **DON'T MISS** /

Moorhead, Minn., Fargo's Twin City

After the **Northern Pacific Railway** reached Minnesota's Clay County in 1871, a wave of predominantly Nordic and German homesteaders brought new traditions to the area, often drawing from the history, folklore and myths of the Vikings.

The **Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County** provides tours of Moorhead's Hjemkomst Viking Ship, a 76-foot, hand-built Viking ship that is the flagship exhibition of



the Hjemkomst Center museum (*hjemkomst* is Norwegian for "homecoming").

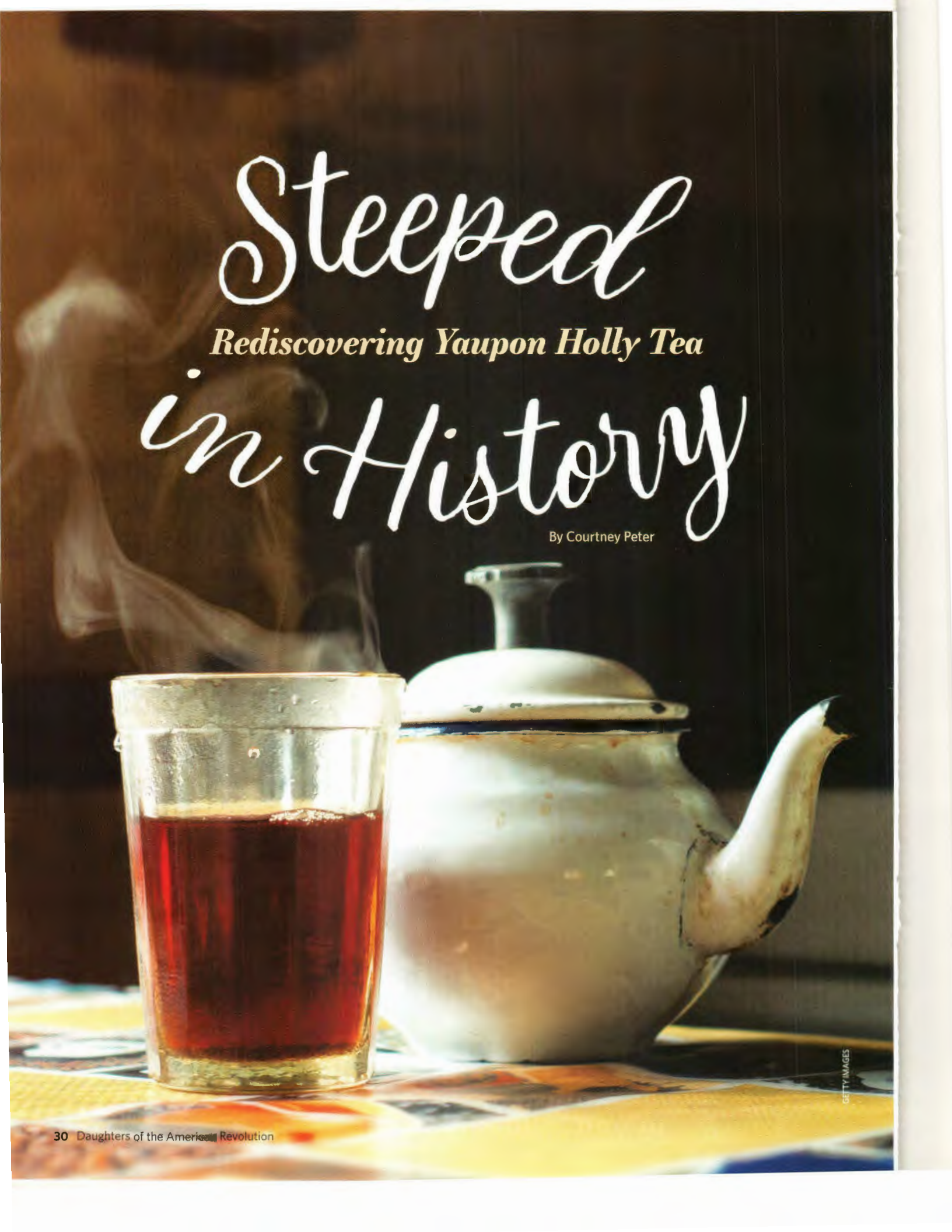
The Hjemkomst Center is also home to the **Moorhead Stave Church**, a full-scale replica of the Hopperstad Stave Church in Vik, Norway. Vertical posts—or staves—were used to construct massive wooden buildings in and around Scandinavia from about the 11th to the 15th centuries.

Elsewhere in town, visit **Comstock House**, an 11-room Victorian mansion, which was the home of the influential Solomon G. Comstock family, who brought business and



educational opportunities to Moorhead.

Bluestem Prairie Preserve, one of the few places in the state where visitors can still experience the vastness of the native prairie that once covered most of western Minnesota and the Dakotas, is recognized as one of the largest and highest-quality northern tallgrass prairies in the U.S.

A photograph of a glass of red tea and a teapot with steam rising from them, serving as the background for the title.

Steeped

Rediscovering Yaupon Holly Tea

in History

By Courtney Peter

By the time the British East India Company's imported, taxed tea was thrown into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773, an entirely different tea tradition native to North America had already been brewing for thousands of years. Tea made from the yaupon holly tree, a perennial evergreen endemic to the Southeast, filtered through many facets of life for the region's American Indians, who drank it medicinally, ceremonially and socially.

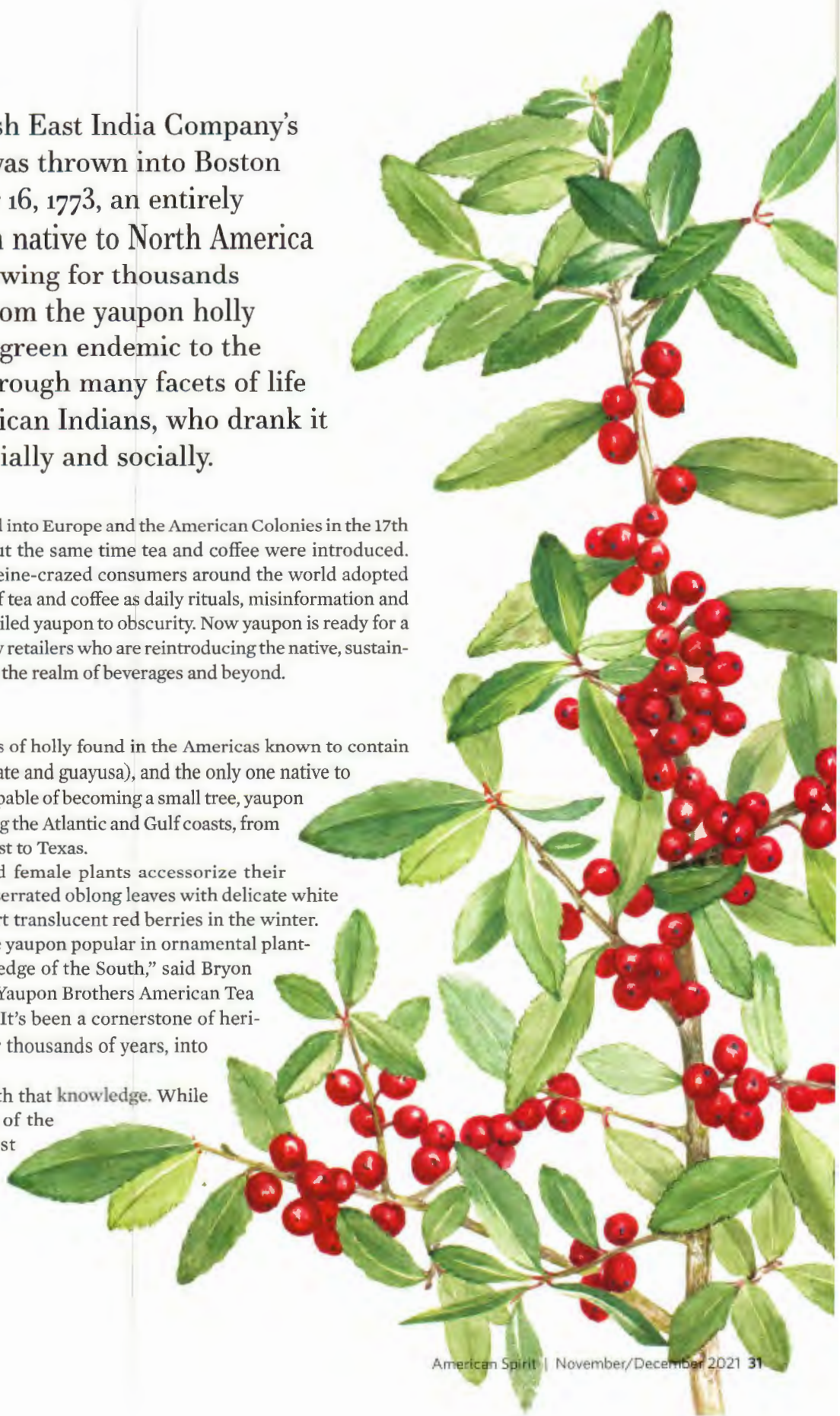
Yaupon poured into Europe and the American Colonies in the 17th century, about the same time tea and coffee were introduced. Whereas caffeine-crazed consumers around the world adopted the drinking of tea and coffee as daily rituals, misinformation and cultural bias exiled yaupon to obscurity. Now yaupon is ready for a revival, fueled by retailers who are reintroducing the native, sustainable superfood to the realm of beverages and beyond.

More Than A Pretty Plant

Yaupon is one of three species of holly found in the Americas known to contain caffeine (the others are yerba mate and guayusa), and the only one native to North America. A large shrub capable of becoming a small tree, yaupon grows wild in lowland areas along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, from Virginia south to Florida and west to Texas.

Come spring, both male and female plants accessorize their year-round wardrobe of subtly serrated oblong leaves with delicate white flowers. Female plants also sport translucent red berries in the winter. These aesthetic attributes make yaupon popular in ornamental plantings. "It is the quintessential hedge of the South," said Bryon White, co-founder and CEO of Yaupon Brothers American Tea Co., based in Edgewater, Fla. "It's been a cornerstone of heritage in the American South for thousands of years, into the modern era."

But White was not raised with that knowledge. While he recognized yaupon as part of the regional backdrop, like most people, he was unaware of its



chemical properties or its use as a beverage. In addition to caffeine, yaupon contains theobromine, a natural stimulant commonly found in chocolate, plus flavonoids and vitamins hailed for their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

Experimenting with backyard leaves in his home kitchen, White produced a brew similar in taste to black tea but less bitter. Because yaupon contains little to no tannins, it has a smoother flavor, does not stain teeth and will not over-steep. "Yaupon has a pleasantly floral, honeyed flavor with strong leafy undertones that mellow as it is roasted," Christine Folch writes in *Ceremony, Medicine, Caffeinated Tea: Unearthing the Forgotten Faces of the North American Stimulant Yaupon* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Native Elixir

The flavor was familiar to southeastern American Indians, who through transplantation and cultivation stretched yaupon's growing range inland to present-day Oklahoma and Arkansas. Trade in dried leaves extended access even farther. Different

High-ranking women in some tribes may have partaken, too, in contexts closed to white visitors.

Associated with fellowship, strength and purity, black drink was consumed ceremonially at town council meetings, before hunts and athletic contests, to welcome visitors, and during important annual events such as the busk, a green corn harvest celebration that coincided with the midsummer peak in yaupon caffeine levels. Local custom dictated the serving vessel, which might be a marine shell, dried gourd or pottery beaker. The honored male leading the black drink ceremony sang a series of notes, then passed the beverage to attendees in descending order of rank.

What happened next influenced outsiders' perceptions of yaupon and inspired its unappealing scientific name—*Ilex vomitoria*. Sometimes, after consuming black drink in large quantities, American Indians ritually regurgitated as a means of cleansing and purifying the body. The reaction was not caused by the beverage itself: Europeans and colonists did not vomit after drinking it, and later research found no emetic proper-

ties in yaupon. Charles Hudson, an authority on southeastern American Indian history and culture and editor of *Black Drink: A Native American Tea* (University of Georgia Press, 1979), believed the behavior was learned. But the ritual left a lasting impression.

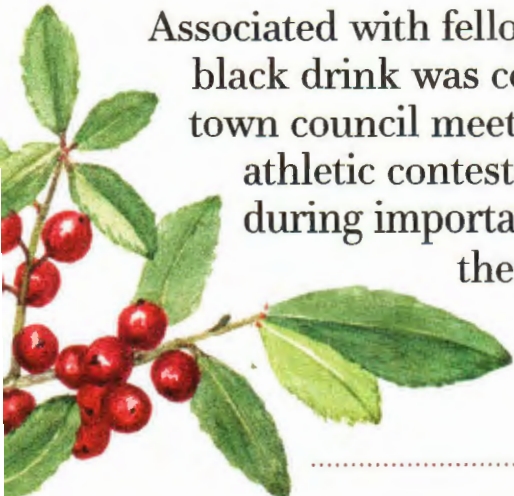
A Loaded Cup of Tea

As contact with American Indians increased, settlers developed a taste for the native tea. Yaupon also attracted interest in Europe not only from tea connoisseurs, but also from botanists and physicians curious about potential medicinal applications. In 1695, for example, London

physician John Peachey claimed it could cure smallpox.

During the run-up to the Revolution, yaupon was promoted as a domestic alternative to purchasing tea from the British East India Company, to which the Tea Act of 1773 granted a monopoly on the importation and sale of tea in the Colonies. "But once the conflict faded, so too did the motivation to drink yaupon as a manner of defiance and a newly forged patriotism. Trade in yaupon seems to have subsided at this time," Folch writes.

Around the same time, yaupon's scientific name took an unsavory turn. In 1753 Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy, had named the yaupon holly tree *Ilex cassine*, a name shared by the dahoon holly. Though first believed to be the same plant, the two were later discovered to be different species. In 1789, King George III's royal gardener William Aiton renamed the yaupon holly *Ilex vomitoria* in an act some see as sabotage. The theory remains unproven, but



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tribes called the plant by different names. Two of the most common were yaupon, a Catawba word meaning "small tree," and cassina, based on the Timucuan word for "leaf."

American Indians prepared yaupon by toasting leaves and tender shoots over a fire to release aromatic oils and make the caffeine more soluble, then boiling them in water. After being strained, the dark liquid was poured back and forth between two vessels to create a frothy white top. These contrasting components account for the drink's contradictory pair of English names: "white drink" and "black drink," the latter being more widely used.

Black drink was often prepared by women but drunk primarily by men, according to the reports of observers including James Adair, an Englishman who spent 30 years living and trading among southeastern tribes, and Lieutenant Henry Timberlake, an 18th-century emissary to the Cherokee.

plausible: By that time, the British knew yaupon was not an emetic and had already demonstrated a commitment to protecting their stake in the tea trade.

The United States government also played a part in yaupon's decline. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced American Indians out of the Southeast, distancing them from cultural touchstones including yaupon. Subsequent attempts at assimilation outlawed many indigenous ceremonies and traditions. "Today, utensils for black drink consumption continue to be crafted and yaupon is still prepared for ceremony, though many of those ceremonies have been closed to the public," Folch writes.

Aside from a spike during the Civil War when coffee and tea became scarce in the South, yaupon drinking diminished even in the plant's home range, partly because of its associations with groups considered culturally inferior. For example, yaupon remained a staple for poor residents of North Carolina's isolated Outer Banks. Black coastal communities in general and the Gullah Geechee people specifically utilized yaupon in the practice of alternative medicine. "In the late 1800s and early 1900s, commercial yaupon production was mostly a Black-owned enterprise," White said. By 1910, the last commercial yaupon processor had closed.

Yaupon Revival

It astonished White that a drink once so regionally ubiquitous could effectively vanish with its plant source still growing plentifully in plain sight. "When I forced it on all my friends and relatives and everyone liked the taste of it, I thought, 'This needs to be a product,'" he said. In 2015, along with his brother Kyle White and business partner Mark Steele, he co-founded Yaupon Brothers, one of a dozen or so yaupon companies established in the past decade.

The resurgence is backed by a support system yaupon has never before enjoyed: In 2018, a group of yaupon entrepreneurs formed the American Yaupon Association, dedicated to promoting research, marketing and commercial advancement. The growth potential is tantalizing. According to the Tea Association of the USA, in 2019 Americans drank 3.8 billion gallons of tea, three-fourths of it iced. "One hundred percent of that tea is produced somewhere else. It doesn't create jobs, it doesn't contribute to our economy as domestic products do," White said. Capturing even a sliver of the tea market would represent a



major win for the yaupon industry, to say nothing of the product's burgeoning presence in the wellness and beauty sectors.

In a commercial environment that values natural ingredients, sustainability and goods produced close to home, yaupon makes a compelling case to consumers. "Instead of tearing down forests on the other side of the world, we can drink a native plant," said Jason Ellis, co-founder of Lost Pines Yaupon, based in Austin, Texas.

Lost Pines sources wild yaupon from Bastrop, Texas, 30 miles southeast of Austin. Harvesting there helps property owners keep their land clear, reduces the amount of fuel available to forest fires and restores the habitat of the Houston toad. "It's beyond sustainable. It's regenerative agriculture, where you produce a product while helping improve the land at the same time," Ellis said.

Leaving a place in better condition than it was found is also central to the Yaupon Brothers business philosophy. The team there formed a new company, Ilex Organics, to oversee an expansion strategy based in part on a transition from wild harvest to cultivation. Already the company has propagated and cloned tens of thousands of yaupon trees, which it plans to donate to farmers in the Mississippi Delta.

"We're thrilled to be putting an endemic species back in the ground and carrying on an 8,000-year-old tradition," said Oliver Luckett, co-founder of Ilex Organics, which includes several regional tea brands such as Yazoo Yaupon, based in Clarksdale, Miss. Luckett, a native of the Delta, is also an entrepreneur, author and former head of innovation at Disney. "We're trying to build a shared economy around farming. Our idea is to find independent farmers throughout the Southeast, give them the trees, sign a 20-year production deal and break the cycle of poverty." 🌀

(Not Just) Shays' Rebellion

/ By Jeff Walter /

Massachusetts Backcountry Regulators Unwittingly Helped Bring About the U.S. Constitution



Daniel Shays

Although Daniel Shays was a Revolutionary War hero with an exemplary record, he is best known today as the namesake of the anti-government rebellion he helped lead after the war. But that 1786–1787 uprising, which climaxed with a raid on a federal arsenal, had multiple leaders among the backcountry farmers, laborers and craftsmen who took up arms against the state of Massachusetts over economic conditions and taxation. Many of these men had fought in the American Revolution, and now they found themselves at times confronting fellow veterans of the war.

Although this short-lived rebellion was largely confined to the western Massachusetts frontier, it influenced the creation of the United States Constitution and the election of the nation's first president. Perhaps that's why the History Channel designated January 25, 1787, the turning point of "Shays' Rebellion," as one of "10 days that unexpectedly changed America."

The Plight of the Postwar Patriot

After the 1783 Treaty of Paris officially ended the War of Independence, many owners or operators of small family farms and laborers struggled to feed their families.

America and its states were saddled with a massive war debt. Britain had barred the new nation from selling to its largest market, the British West Indies. According to an article on mountvernon.org, merchants in Europe and America were "refusing further loans while also demanding payment in cash for any future goods and services." However, with such a small amount of currency in circulation, the average individual was placed "under unrealistic schedules of payment," according to mountvernon.org. "In many ways, life was more difficult than it had been before the war," Mary E. Hull wrote in *Shays' Rebellion and the Constitution in American History* (Enslow Publishers, 2000).

Massachusetts imposed the most burdensome tax among the 13 states: nearly a third of one's income, payable only in gold or silver. Many creditors also began demanding hard-money payment on debts that had accrued during the war. Those unable to pay faced the threat of debtor court, where they might lose their property or be sent to prison.

Frustrations had been mounting even during the war. Four years of petitions and protests, from 1781 to 1785, failed to bring the desired relief: a new paper currency, reduced taxes, the ability to pay debts with personal property, and the reform (or elimination) of debtor courts. County conventions were held

**Massachusetts
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to discuss potential options. Rebellion was a last resort.

A Reluctant Leader ... and Disorder in the Courts

Daniel Shays had been committed to the Patriot cause. He had joined a militia; responded as a minuteman to the alarm on April 19, 1775, when the first shots of the Revolution were fired in Lexington; and fought at Ticonderoga, Bunker Hill, Saratoga and Stony Point. The Marquis de Lafayette had honored him with a ceremonial sword.

After the war, Shays, who had begun acquiring land after his marriage in 1772, settled on his rocky farm in Pelham in the western Massachusetts backcountry. At some point, he sold more than half his land, and twice in 1786 he was sued over unpaid debts.

The growing numbers of disaffected farmers, laborers and craftsmen began calling themselves Regulators. They had been inspired by the example of the North Carolina farmers who had first used the name during the last half of the 1760s when they resorted to armed protest in an attempt to reform the court system.

Tensions escalated in August 1786. Though the county conventions had produced lengthy lists of grievances against the state, the legislature again adjourned without addressing those concerns. On August 29, Luke Day—a Revolutionary War veteran who had served time in debtors' prison in 1785—joined Joseph Hines and Josh Billings in leading 1,500 men, some armed, in



This lithograph depicts a scene in Springfield, Mass., when a mob attempted to prevent the holding of the Courts of Justice.

marching to the Court of Common Pleas in Northampton and preventing it from holding session. Regulators subsequently disrupted courts in several other towns.

"Shays had been slow in joining the rebellion, rejecting an offer to lead the Pelham contingent in August," Leonard L. Richards wrote in *Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002). But in September, determined to act as a peacemaker, he participated in a march on the Supreme Judicial Court in Springfield. There he negotiated with General William Shepard, commander of the state militia guarding the courthouse, to allow peaceful protests outside during court proceedings. Despite this arrangement, the court shut down when no willing jurors were found.

After that, state officials designated Shays the ringleader and dubbed the group Shaysites.

"They never depicted themselves as dissident debtors. Nor did they refer to themselves as rebels, insurgents, or Shaysites. Those were words pinned on them by their enemies," Richards wrote. "They saw themselves instead as 'Regulators' and made that explicit to all recruits. 'We do Each one of us,' read a typical muster form, 'acknowledge our Selves to be Inlisted ... in Colo Hazeltons Regiment of Regulators ... for the Suppressing of tyrannical government in the Massachusetts State.'"

Tensions Increase; an Arsenal Is Targeted

On September 2, 1786, Governor James Bowdoin issued a proclamation condemning the Regulators' actions and calling on Massachusetts citizens to defend the state against

anarchy. Other measures followed. Bowdoin's policy was strongly influenced by Samuel Adams, who had declared that "in monarchies the crime of treason and rebellion may admit of being pardoned or lightly punished, but the man who dares rebel against the laws of a republic ought to suffer death," according to William Pencak's article "Samuel Adams and Shays' Rebellion" in *The New England Quarterly*, Vol. 62, No. 1 (March 1989). The suspension of *habeas corpus* allowed suspected rebels to be incarcerated indefinitely without trial, while the state enacted a Riot Act permitting sheriffs to kill rioters.

In late November, a group of several hundred horsemen captured suspected instigator Job Shattuck and two others. Shattuck was seriously wounded when he resisted, and the three men were jailed in Boston.



In this image, originally published in *The History of Our Country* in 1905, troops pursue rebels during Shays' Rebellion.

In January 1787, Bowdoin, with private funding from Boston businessmen, raised an army of several thousand under the command of Revolutionary War veteran General Benjamin Lincoln to quell the uprising.

The outmatched Regulators were in severe need of arms. The federal arsenal in Springfield stored several cannons, 7,000 muskets and 1,300 barrels of gunpowder. The Regulators planned a three-pronged attack on January 25, 1787.

Groups led by Shays, Day and Eli Parsons would converge on the arsenal from three sides.

But Gen. Shepard, who with Shays had negotiated a peaceful resolution to the September 1786 march on Springfield, anticipated the attack and was waiting at the arsenal with his men. Gen. Lincoln and his troops, meanwhile, were on their way from Worcester to provide reinforcement. Day, for unknown reasons, postponed his men's advance until the next day. But state militia intercepted his message to alert Shays and Parsons to his change of plan.

As two instead of three Regulator regiments advanced, Gen. Shepard instructed his militia to fire warning shots over their



Gen. Benjamin Lincoln



Gen. William Shepard

in *Shays' Rebellion: The Making of an Agrarian Insurrection* (The University of Massachusetts Press, 1980).

"In June 1787, Shaysite raids, for a number of reasons, ground to a halt," Szatmary wrote. Reasons included new lawmakers seemingly more inclined to support legislation favorable to the farmers, laborers and craftsmen, though that legislation never came.

A Constitution and a President

During and after the tension in Massachusetts, leaders of the new nation who advocated for a stronger national government joined with those who believed state governments should act almost independently of one another in arguing that the Articles of Confederation were too weak. Lacking the ability to organize a national economy, pay national debts, create a national currency or form a strong national military, the Articles had been useless not only in preventing the crisis that precipitated the uprising, but also in helping quash that uprising. Many proponents of decentralized power were forced to agree with the nationalists that measures were necessary to "insure domestic tranquility," as the Preamble to the Constitution later put it.

The rebellion created a sense of urgency around the Constitutional Convention, which began in May 1787 in Philadelphia. George Washington, who had been enjoying retirement at Mount Vernon, "attributed his own presence at the Constitutional Convention in May to the Massachusetts troubles," Szatmary wrote.

Among the numerous provisions of the United States Constitution were federal control of the militia and a national army to quell any future uprisings. On February 6, 1788, Massachusetts ratified the Constitution by a 187-168 vote, becoming the sixth state to join the Union, and it was formally adopted June 21, 1788. That same year, Daniel Shays was pardoned by Massachusetts.

In 1795, Shays moved to New York, where he settled in the town of Rensselaerville in Albany County. He eventually settled in Sparta, N.Y., with his daughter and son-in-law (his wife, Abigail, had since died). In 1815, he remarried, this time to Rhoda Havens, a widow and innkeeper. Five years later, he received his U.S. military pension for his Revolutionary War service. He died in 1825, at age 78, in Sparta. ☼



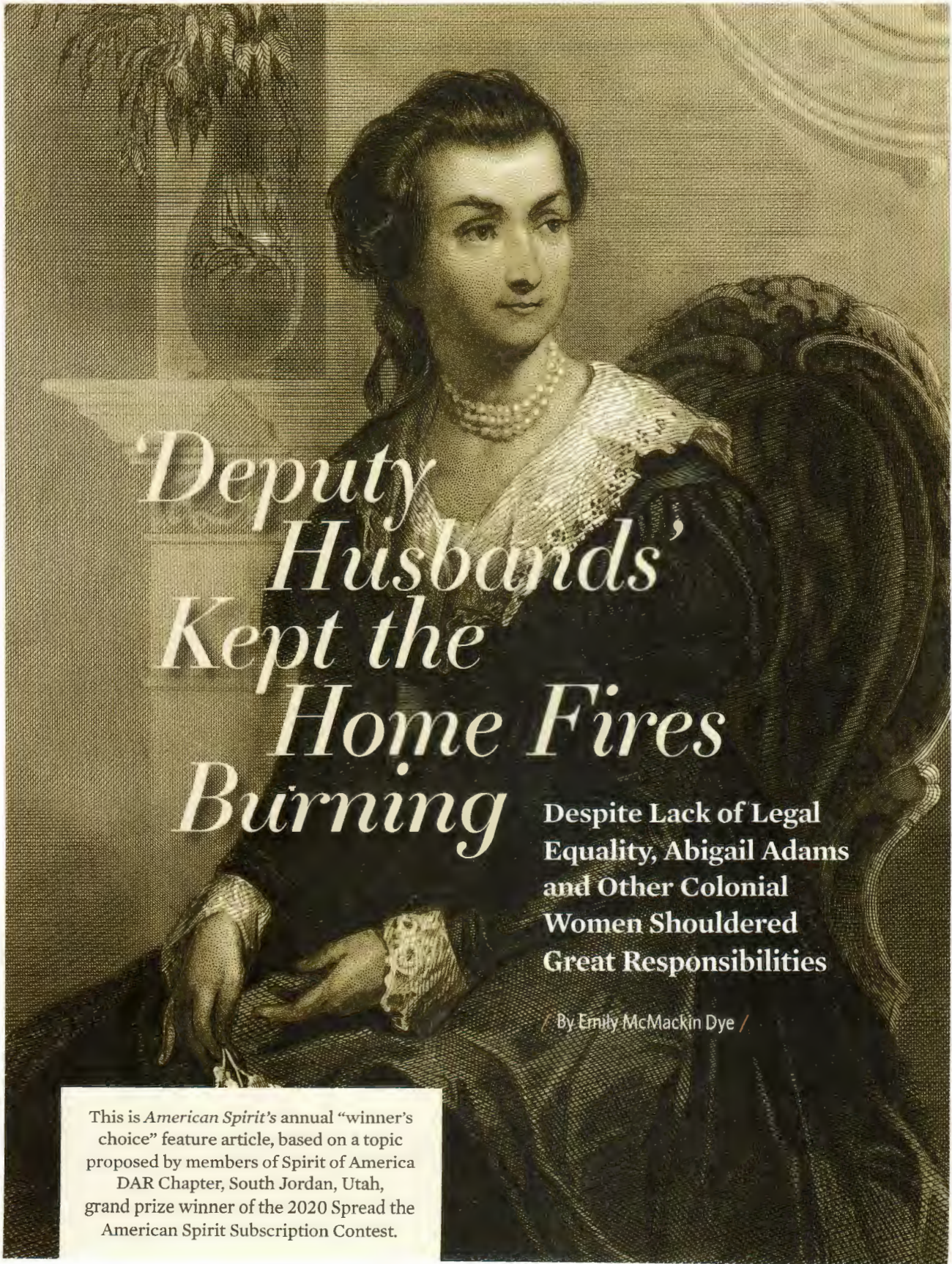
This marker in Great Barrington, Mass., commemorates a final skirmish that wounded 30 rebels, one mortally, and killed a government soldier.

heads. When those shots were ignored, the state militia aimed lower, killing two Regulators, wounding 20 and sending the others fleeing.

Many Regulators went into hiding as warrants were issued for the arrests of Shays, Day, Parsons and others. Gen. Lincoln continued to pursue them. Humiliating defeats in February at Petersham and Sheffield effectively spelled the end for the Regulators, although isolated raids and harassment targeting government officials, state militia leaders, merchants and lawyers continued for months, according to David P. Szatmary

Honoring Daniel Shays

In western Massachusetts, a section of U.S. Route 202 running through Pelham and nearby towns has been known since the 1930s as the Daniel Shays Highway.



Deputy Husbands' Kept the Home Fires Burning

**Despite Lack of Legal
Equality, Abigail Adams
and Other Colonial
Women Shouldered
Great Responsibilities**

By Emily McMackin Dye /

This is *American Spirit's* annual "winner's choice" feature article, based on a topic proposed by members of Spirit of America DAR Chapter, South Jordan, Utah, grand prize winner of the 2020 Spread the American Spirit Subscription Contest.

A

Abigail Adams is best known as an early champion of women's rights—an ideology she notably expressed in a March 1776 letter urging her husband, John, to “remember the ladies” when forming the new laws of the republic. Through hundreds of letters, she challenged John and others to reexamine the dominant views of the era that kept women from achieving equality with men.

Lesser known is the assertive role Abigail played in her own household during her husband's long absences and her tireless efforts to keep the family farm and finances afloat through eight years of war, crippling inflation, supply shortages and the ever-present threat of violence from the Redcoats. Though she confessed in a letter to John that she felt “unequal to the cares which fall upon me,” she took pride in her ability to shoulder these responsibilities.

“I hardly know how I have got thro these thing's, but it gives me great pleasure to say they are done because I know it will be an Ease to your mind,” Abigail wrote in a May 1776 letter to John, who was 300 miles away in Philadelphia serving as an active delegate to the Second Continental Congress.

Along with raising their children and overseeing their farm and household in

Braintree, Mass., Abigail took on duties normally handled by her husband. She traded livestock, hired farmhands and servants, supervised the planting and harvesting, and even bought and sold land. Her shrewd fiscal management kept her family out of debt as the value of Colonial currency plummeted, while she added to their coffers through savvy investments and a side business importing scarce European accessories.

John recognized the magnitude of her contributions. “I know not what would become of me, and mine, if I had not such a Friend to take Care of my Interests in my Absence,” he wrote to her in a June 1777 letter.

Stepping Into a New Sphere

Many women in early America found themselves assuming the role of “deputy husband” when their spouse left home to join the Patriot Army or serve in state assemblies. With their husbands gone for months or longer, women across all social classes “accepted the need to step in and direct household affairs, run the farm or shop, arm themselves against the enemy

and protect their families from danger,” Carol Berkin wrote in *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence* (Knopf, 2005).

These responsibilities required most women to step outside the bounds of what they knew—and what was expected of them. Though many were used to helping with a harvest, bookkeeping or busy days in a shop, few were accustomed to managing business affairs or making decisions on behalf of their husbands. Colonists adhered to the English common law of coverture, which stripped married women of all legal and property rights. Under coverture, a married couple functioned as a unit, forcing the wife to surrender her legal identity to her husband's “wing, protection and cover.” As a *feme covert*, she could not sign contracts, buy or sell land, file a lawsuit, write a will, own property, or keep and control her own earnings as single women, or *feme soles*, could. All she owned before her marriage—even the clothes on her back—became her husband's property. (Read more about coverture in the March/April 2021 issue of *American Spirit*.)

John and Abigail Adams moved into this house after their wedding in October 1764. Their oldest children, Abigail “Nabby” and John Quincy Adams, were born here. Abigail was responsible for running the farm, raising and educating her children, and hiring farmhands and servants while John was in Philadelphia and Europe.

“I know not what would become of me, and mine, if I had not such a Friend to take Care of my Interests in my Absence.”

— JOHN ADAMS IN A LETTER TO ABIGAIL



Widowhood gave women more freedom, enabling them to transact business, earn income, and oversee the family estate and assets in the absence of grown sons or male heirs. Dower rights also protected widows from economic dependency, allowing them to claim one-third of their husband's land for their lifetime use. In Colonial society, such rules were meant to support the family as a unit, but even as early as the 17th century, there were exceptions to the rigors of coverture.

Men who held prominent positions in the community or spent time away from home for extended periods of time often authorized their wives to handle personal or business affairs on their behalf. These women were considered "fictive widows," because "their husbands were unwilling or unable to govern them," Mary Beth Norton wrote in *Founding Mothers & Fathers: Gendered Power and the Forming of American Society* (Knopf, 1996). Fictive widows often wielded considerable power in their communities, but not all came from privilege or wealth.

In coastal New England, wives of fishermen, sailors and captains frequently conducted business for their husbands while the men were at sea. In *Goodwives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England: 1650-1750* (Penguin Random House, 1991), Laurel Thatcher Ulrich recounted how Elizabeth Holmes of Boston met with Patience Marston of Salem, Mass., in 1710, to settle accounts accumulated during a voyage their husbands took to Newfoundland. "Neither woman had been on the ship," Ulrich explained. "They were simply acting as attorneys for their husbands."

Even as public opinion in the 18th century increasingly relegated women to the home and domestic sphere, men involved in multiple ventures relied on their wives to convey messages, fetch shipments, pacify creditors and keep accounts, essentially putting them at "the communication center of these diverse operations," Ulrich wrote. In keeping with their traditional role as "helpmates," she noted, women were often called upon to act as a "deputy" or "surrogate" to their



This 1852 painting by Emanuel Leutze shows Catherine Schuyler, wife of General Philip Schuyler, burning her wheat fields to prevent the British from harvesting her family's crops.

husbands, assuming responsibilities from menial tasks to affairs outside the home.

Taking the Reins

As tensions between Colonists and the Crown hurled Americans into bloody skirmishes with the British, many women reluctantly took on the role of deputy husband in the hopes that the conflict would be short. They juggled caring for their children, home and garden with formidable tasks such as mending fences, chopping firewood, repairing tools, purchasing farm equipment, negotiating the sale of crops, and overseeing laborers and harvests. As New Haven, Conn., farm wife Azubah Norton proudly recalled decades later in a Revolutionary War pension claim, "What was done was done by myself."

With prices spiraling upward and British trade halted, many women struggled to find the most basic necessities for their families or to purchase items even when they found them. When household supplies ran out, they often improvised, using thorns for pins, making tea from herbs and flowers, and preserving foods with walnut ash in lieu of salt, according to Berkin's *Revolutionary Mothers*.

Constant dangers surrounded them. Shortly after the fighting began near Boston in the spring of 1775, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband about the

chaos in their home, with soldiers and refugees dropping in at all hours for food and shelter and plundering the garden and root cellar.

"You can hardly imagine how we live," she wrote. "We know not what a day will bring forth, nor what distress an hour may throw us into."

The presence of occupying troops in a town or city meant that the resources women had worked so hard to preserve could be lost in an instant. While many willingly aided the Patriot Army with cattle, grain and other provisions, some had their homes commandeered by soldiers who demanded that they cook and do laundry for them. Others were terrorized by Redcoats who looted their homes, destroyed property, and threatened to rape or kill them. In the South, departing British troops took slaves with them, stripping women of their labor force, Mary Beth Norton wrote in *Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800* (Cornell University Press, 1980).

Instructed by her husband, General Philip Schuyler, Catherine Schuyler set fire to wheat fields on the family's Albany, N.Y., estate—and ordered tenants to do the same—to prevent the British from harvesting them on their march through the Hudson Valley. Roving troops also brought diseases such as

smallpox and dysentery with them, causing outbreaks in the communities they occupied. When a smallpox epidemic swept through Massachusetts in the summer of 1776, Abigail made the risky decision to take her children to Boston, where the entire family was inoculated with live infected serum.

"This is a Beautiful Morning," Abigail wrote to John in September 1776, after the ordeal had passed. "I came here with all my treasure of children, have passed through one of the most terrible Diseases to which human Nature is subject, and not one of us is wanting."

Gaining Confidence and Competence

In the early years of the American Revolution, women tended to question their ability to make decisions apart from their husbands, and men often encouraged their wives to seek out male friends or relatives for advice. In a 1777 letter to her husband, Joseph, during his stint as an aide-de-camp to General George Washington, Esther de Berdt Reed wrestled with whether she should plant flax, writing: "As I am not famous for making good Bargains in things out of my Sphere I shall put it off as long as possible, in hopes you may be at home before it is too late." But as the war raged on, deputy husbands gained greater confidence in their judgment and grew more comfortable with making their own decisions, Norton wrote.

Upon leaving Braintree to serve in the First Continental Congress, John Adams sent Abigail pages upon pages of instructions pertaining to the management of the farm and the education of their children. With his legal fees drying up and a meager savings to sustain the family, he also charged her with cutting costs and ensuring his tenants paid rent. Left without a farm manager during a labor shortage in 1776, Abigail stepped in to oversee the operation, despite her concerns about being "obliged to direct what I fear I don't properly understand."

"I hope in time to have the Reputation of being as good a Farmeress as my partner has of being a good Statesman," she wrote to John in an April 1776 letter.

But as their separations grew longer and their correspondence more sporadic, Abigail began taking matters into her own hands, according to Woody Holton's *Abigail Adams: A Life* (Simon & Schuster, 2009). After losing more farmhands and profits, she decided to try sharecropping, giving two of her tenants use of the land and livestock and splitting the harvest with them. She also invested the family's



"This war which has so often & long separated us, has taught me how to value you."

— A LETTER FROM
TIMOTHY PICKERING
TO HIS WIFE, REBECCA

depreciating currency into war bonds to preserve its value. When John sailed to France in 1778 on a diplomatic mission, Abigail convinced him to discreetly ship scarves, ribbons and other merchandise to her so she could sell the items to merchants for a profit.

With a portion of her income from importing European goods, Abigail invested even more, putting 100 pounds of sterling in the hands of a friend and eventually using her earnings to purchase 1,650 acres of land in Vermont through John's name and the help of four frontmen who deeded their tracts to her children.

The American Revolution changed how many deputy husbands perceived themselves and gave them a greater sense of ownership in the property and enterprises they helped salvage while their husbands were gone. At the beginning of the war, Mary Bartlett frequently wrote to her husband, Josiah Bartlett, a New Hampshire delegate in the Continental Congress, about "his farming business,"

but over time she began to call it "our farming business." Men, too, gained a new appreciation for their wives and their capabilities. Early letters from Colonel Timothy Pickering to his wife, Rebecca, take a patronizing tone when discussing business matters. But after she helped him resolve a debt, he depended more heavily on her. "This war which has so often & long separated us, has taught me how to value you," he wrote to her in 1782.

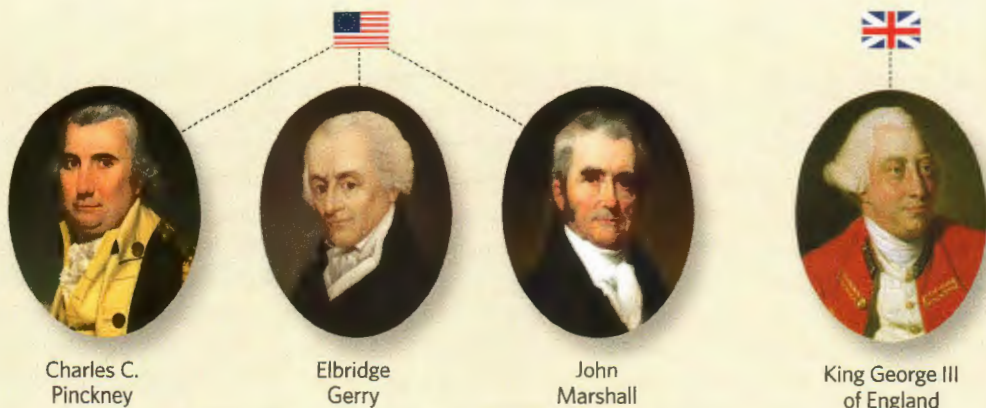
Just three years after penning her anxious letter to her husband about what crops to plant, Esther de Berdt Reed was spearheading efforts to organize a Philadelphia Ladies Association to raise money and morale for Patriot soldiers. Members of the association collected more than \$300,000, inspiring similar campaigns in New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia.

Establishing an 'Equal Command'

Though the Revolutionary War created more opportunities for women to step outside traditional roles of the era and take charge of their households, it did not change their status in society or end coverture, as Abigail Adams hoped it might. But the bravery, tenacity and ingenuity women exhibited through nearly a decade of war elevated them in the eyes of their husbands and paved the way for advances in female education and training that flourished in the new republic. For women such as Lucy Knox, wife of General Henry Knox, the experience also deepened their sense of self and possibility for their lives. As she wrote in a 1777 letter to her husband:

"I hope you will not consider yourself as commander in chief in your own house—but be convinced ... that there is such a thing as equal command." ☉

**Editor's Note: Although Abigail Adams and others like her supported the Revolution in many ways, unfortunately, they are ineligible for service as defined by DAR.*



DIPLOMATIC SCANDAL SPARKED QUASI-WAR

*America's Diplomatic and Trade Treaty With Great Britain
Fed Tensions With France*

/ By Bill Hudgins /



The Quasi-War, also known as “The Half-War” and “The Undeclared War with France,” was a limited naval conflict between the United States and France that lasted from 1798 to 1800. The conflict had roots in the American Revolutionary War alliance between the United States and France and was triggered by a diplomatic scandal known as the XYZ Affair.

Relations between the former allies had deteriorated after the French Revolution started in May 1789. U.S. public opinion divided over the revolution as it became increasingly violent. Federalists such as George Washington and John Adams generally condemned it, while the emerging Democratic-Republican faction led by Thomas Jefferson supported it.

Within weeks of Louis XVI’s execution in January 1793, France went to war with most of the European monarchies and Great Britain. The French insisted the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with America bound the United States to support France against Britain. Washington disagreed, and in April 1793 he issued a Proclamation of Neutrality asserting America’s right to trade with both Britain and France.

Both France and Britain rejected U.S. neutrality. They began to stop and search U.S. merchantmen for contraband, seizing

and selling offending ships and their contraband cargoes. Britain also closed its West Indian colonies to U.S. ships, raised import duties and refused to honor some terms of the treaty that ended the Revolutionary War.

Meanwhile, France meddled in U.S. politics and public opinion. It sent Edmond-Charles Genêt, better known as “Citizen Genêt,” to America as its first minister to the United States, but Genêt’s real purpose was not diplomacy—it was to stir up dissension among Americans over neutrality and to raise popular support for France.

Instead of sailing directly to the capital at Philadelphia, Genêt landed in Charleston, S.C., on April 8, 1793. He immediately began recruiting privateers to attack British vessels and speaking out against America’s official position of neutrality.

As “The Quasi-War,” an article on mountvernon.org, recounts, Genêt took a month to reach Philadelphia, recruiting privateers and condemning neutrality at every stop. Once he reached the capital, Washington and Secretary of State Jefferson each warned him to stop his tactless actions. He refused, and in May, Washington finally requested his recall to France.

A war of words broke out between pro- and anti-French factions. Alexander Hamilton, writing as “Pacificus,” and



This June 1798 illustration by Samuel William Fores is a British satire of Franco-American relations following the XYZ Affair in May 1798.

John Quincy Adams, using the pseudonyms “Columbus” and “Barneveld,” defended neutrality, while James Madison as “Helvidius” urged aiding France.

Meanwhile in France, a more radical government had taken power, one that likely would have executed Genêt if he returned. He was allowed to remain in America until his death in 1834.

Washington resisted calls for war against Great Britain, knowing America was militarily weak. Britain was also America’s most important trading partner, and he wanted to preserve that relationship. In 1794, he dispatched Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay to London to negotiate a diplomatic and trade treaty.

Jay had little leverage, however, and Britain dictated most of the terms. Jay signed the treaty on November 19, 1794, and sent a copy to Washington. The treaty was unpopular in America,

capabilities. Federalists generally praised this “peace with honor” approach, but Republicans saw it as inviting war, McCullough writes.

The XYZ Affair

Adams created a three-person commission to negotiate with France’s new foreign minister, Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord. He chose his friend and confidant Elbridge Gerry and future Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall to join Pinckney.

The envoys arrived in France in October 1797. Other than a couple of letters from Marshall and Pinckney indicating Talleyrand had refused to receive them officially, no detailed reports arrived. Then on March 4, 1798, Secretary of State Timothy Pickering received a number of official dispatches, most written in code. An unencoded dispatch reported the Directory had refused to negotiate. This was bad news, but worse followed as the dispatches were decoded.

The dispatches reported that after arriving in Paris, the commissioners had an informal 15-minute meeting with Talleyrand. Days later, they met with three French agents—Jean Conrad Hottinguer, Pierre Bellamy and Lucien Hauteval—who were designated as X, Y and Z in the dispatches.

They stunned the Americans by demanding a \$250,000 bribe for Talleyrand before starting negotiations. They also demanded a \$10 million loan to France and a promise that America would pay U.S. merchants’ claims for confiscated cargoes and ships. X, Y and Z also made veiled threats against the United States and the commissioners.

Bribery was customary in French diplomacy, but the outraged Americans categorically refused all demands. After more fruitless meetings, Marshall and Pinckney left Paris. Gerry remained—Talleyrand had asked him to stay, warning there would be war if he left.

After reading the dispatches, Adams agonized over making them public. The Republicans suspected they were favorable to France and accused Adams and the Federalists of withholding them to push for war. On April 2, the House voted 65–27 to make them public. Adams released them on April 3, to the deep chagrin of the Republicans.

The Half-War

The XYZ revelations roused public anger against France and briefly brought Adams huge popular support, memorialized in the popular Federalist slogan “Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute.” Congress approved most of his defense requests and abrogated the 1778 treaty with France.

On July 7, 1798, which is considered the official start of the Quasi-War, Congress authorized the Navy to engage French privateers in the Caribbean and off the Atlantic seaboard. Before the conflict ended, U.S. warships would capture more than 80



The Directory, a five-member committee that began governing France in November 1795, refused to acknowledge Charles Cotesworth Pinckney as minister to France until America repaid its debts that were incurred in the Revolutionary War.

and the French condemned it as a de facto alliance between America and Britain, David McCullough writes in *John Adams* (Simon & Schuster, 2001).

Deepening Tensions

In November 1795, a new government called the Directory took control of France. The next year, Washington recalled Minister to France James Monroe and replaced him with Charles Cotesworth Pinckney of South Carolina.

However, the Directory refused to recognize Pinckney or any “minister plenipotentiary from the United States, until after a reparation of the grievances demanded of the American government,” Marvin R. Zahniser relates in “The First Pinckney Mission to France” (*The South Carolina Historical Magazine*, October 1965). Told to leave France, Pinckney went to Amsterdam in February 1797 and awaited orders from home.

John Adams succeeded Washington as president on March 4, 1797, and learned of Pinckney’s predicament just days later. Adams determined to remain neutral and pursue a diplomatic solution, while significantly building up America’s military



This 1981 painting by Rear Admiral John William Schmidt depicts when the USS *Constellation* captured the French frigate *L'Insurgente*.

French vessels including navy ships and privateers, as well as recapturing U.S. ships taken by France, according to the U.S. Navy's history of the war.

During the conflict, French vessels seized more than 2,000 U.S. merchant ships, primarily in the West Indies, according to the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia. In a notorious incident, French privateers tortured Captain William Martin of the *Cincinnati* with thumbscrews trying to force him to confess that the ship carried British goods.

The two biggest battles both involved the 38-gun frigate USS *Constellation* under Captain Thomas Truxton (Truxtun), a former American privateer in the Revolutionary War. (The *Constellation* was officially classified by the U.S. Navy as a 36-gun frigate, but during the Quasi-War it carried a heavier armament of 38 guns.) On February 9, 1799, the *Constellation* captured the *L'Insurgente*, which was armed with 40 cannons, near the island of Nevis. On February 1, 1800, the heavily damaged *La Vengeance* surrendered after a fierce battle off Saint Kitts but managed to escape from the badly damaged *Constellation*.

Resolution

On October 1, 1798, Gerry returned to America with news that France wanted peace.

In February 1799, Adams created a new commission that left on November 15, unaware Napoleon Bonaparte had staged a coup and taken control of France as First Consul.

The Convention of Mortefontaine (also known as the Convention of 1800), signed in Paris on September 30, 1800, abolished the 1778 Treaty of Alliance and granted America "most favored nation" trade status. It did not settle the compensation question, which delayed Senate ratification until December 18, 1801, according to the U.S. State Department's history of the XYZ affair.

News of the treaty arrived too late to help Adams in the 1800 election. His loss to Jefferson signaled the demise of the Federalists. Nevertheless, Adams' strategy achieved some of his important goals. He kept America out of a full-on war and strengthened its military. The treaty freed America from its only "entangling alliance" with a European power. ⚙

John Trumbull's 1786 painting *The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775*, depicts the death of Brigadier General Richard Montgomery. In the shadows, Colonel Louis Cook is wielding a tomahawk, fending off assailants.

Unwavering Dedication to the Cause

American Indian Louis 'Atayataghronghta' Cook Was a Warrior for Independence

In honor of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States of America in 2026, the DAR is planting trees to honor famous patriots as well as some of the Revolutionary War's lesser-known heroes. Louis Cook is one of these heroes. His contributions to the fight for American Independence were numerous, and yet his name remains relatively unknown. To understand the depth of his sacrifice and the significance of his achievements, it is important to know his story.

/ By Amanda Taylor /

WIKIPEDIA

One afternoon in August 1775, a tall, broad-shouldered Indian man arrived at Army headquarters in Cambridge, Mass. He was introduced to George Washington as Colonel Louis, Chief of the Caughnawaga. The warrior, who spoke fluent English, advised the newly appointed commander in chief that many Indians and Canadians supported the Colonists' rebellion against the Crown. He then asked for permission to raise a company of Oneida and Tuscarora warriors. Washington was pleased to hear the news but skeptical about granting a commission. In a letter written later to Major General Philip Schuyler (*George Washington Papers, Series 3, Varick Transcripts, 1775-1785*), Washington admitted to feeling "a little embarrassed" upon meeting the Indian chief. This reaction, he explained, proceeded from the "little knowledge" he had of Col. Louis' intentions as well as from the expense that granting such a request could incur.

Former Foes Become Allies

Washington and Col. Louis were both veterans of the French and Indian War, fighting on opposite sides. During the war, both gained recognition as military leaders. Their lives, however, were nothing alike. Col. Louis was born in 1737 in Saratoga, N.Y., to an Abenaki mother and African father who named him Nia-man-rigouant, which means "multicolored bird" in French. When he was 8 years old, the young boy and his mother were captured by the Mohawk, the traditional enemies of the Abenaki, and taken north to Kahnawake, an Iroquois settlement in Canada, just south of Montreal. Years later, the Kahnawake tribe adopted the boy and gave him the name "Atayataghronghta," which in Mohawk means "he unhangs himself from the group." He also developed close relationships with the Jesuit missionaries who lived among the tribe. They instilled in him a deep faith and gave him the name Louis upon his baptism into the Catholic church.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Col. Louis traveled north and volunteered as a messenger for Brigadier General Richard Montgomery during the invasion of Quebec. This brutal and disastrous campaign is memorialized in John Trumbull's 1786 painting *The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775*. In this oil painting, the fatally wounded Montgomery is surrounded by his officers, while in the shadows, a tomahawk-wielding Col. Louis fends off the assailants.

Despite the loss of Quebec, Col. Louis stayed by the side of the American forces throughout the campaign, being, as Captain James Wilkinson would later write, "the only Canadian who accompanied the army in its retreat from Canada." After Col. Louis returned to America, he visited Washington a second time to ask for the "liberty to raise men to fight." Again his request went unanswered.

Nonetheless, Col. Louis continued to fight. His unwavering dedication to the American cause is proof of what Eleazer Williams described in an 1851 biography of Col. Louis as a man of "constancy and perseverance seldom equaled." Throughout the war, Col. Louis volunteered as a scout and spy for the Continental Army, providing critical information on the movements and strength of the enemy despite the consequences he could face.



John Trumbull
sketched this pencil
drawing of Col. Louis
Cook in 1785.

Officially Joining the Revolution

In September 1776, the British circulated a letter throughout the Six Nations asking each tribe to take up arms against the Americans. By July 1777, four of the six Iroquois tribes—the Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca—had accepted this invitation. The remaining two, the Oneida and Tuscarora, refused. This infuriated King George and prompted him to denounce both tribes, saying they deserved to die for joining the rebellion. Ironically, at the time of this announcement, the Oneida and Tuscarora tribes were maintaining the stance of neutrality they had originally declared in 1776; however, that was about to change.

On August 6, 1777, Col. Louis and his detachment of Indian scouts were crossing a ravine near the Oneida village of Oriska when they were ambushed by Mohawk Chief Joseph "Thayendaneaga" Brant and his loyalist militia. Brant's troops intercepted the Indian scouts along with General Nicholas Herkimer's militia as they were on their way to reinforce the Patriot forces at Fort Stanwix. The ensuing battle, a slaughter of American soldiers and their Indian allies now known as the Battle of Oriskany, eventually became known as the bloodiest battle of the Revolution. The bitter rivalry that had severed these tribes resulted in a vengeful and vicious fight, which, according to *The Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser*, lasted six hours. Unfortunately, the retribution did not end there. According to British Colonel Daniel Clause, after the battle, Mohawk and Seneca soldiers continued raiding the Oneida settlements, burning homes, destroying crops and killing cattle.

After this battle, Col. Louis was put in command of a company of 150 Indian Rangers, made up of Oneida and Tuscarora Indians, who were attached to the 1st New York Regiment under Brigadier General Robert Van Rensselaer and Colonel Goose Van Schaick. The Indian Rangers fought courageously in the Battles of Saratoga in September–October 1777, brought food and reinforcements to the troops at Valley Forge in March 1778, and saved the Marquis de Lafayette's army from capture at Barren Hill in May 1778.

A Life of Sacrifice and Devotion

At long last, on June 15, 1779, Congress granted Louis "Atayataghronghtha" Cook a commission as a lieutenant colonel, making him the highest-ranking officer of American Indian and African descent to serve with the Continental Army. Twelve of his fellow Oneida and Tuscarora chiefs also received commissions.

Together these men vowed to support the Americans, even if it cost them their lives—a sacrifice that some of them ultimately made. During the Battle of Klock's Field in October 1780, Col. Louis and his men formed the vanguard of Van Rensselaer's army in pursuing Mohawk Chief Brant and the notorious Walter Butler. Together, Brant and Butler had orchestrated the carnage at Oriskany as well as the massacre of men, women and children at Cherry Valley, N.Y., in November 1778. Although Brant was never caught, Col. Louis and his men had their revenge and gained notoriety for killing Butler during the Battle of Johnstown in 1781, one of the last battles of the war.

After the American Revolution, Col. Louis moved to an Oneida village and married Marguerite Thewanihatta. He had three sons and several daughters and went on to serve the United States as a peace negotiator among the various tribes of the Ohio River Valley. Although advanced in age, Col. Louis insisted on fighting with his sons during the War of 1812. On July 25, 1814, during the Battle of Lundy's Lane, he was injured by a fall from his horse. Days later, in failing health, he asked to be carried back to the Indian settlements near the American camp. His last words were ones of faith, love for his family and tribe, and undying loyalty to the American cause. He died in October 1814 and was buried near Buffalo, N.Y. ☉

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